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

*"Sustaining Peace and Development in Asia"*

20 -25 November 2017  
Istanbul, Republic of Turkey

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## SECOND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

1. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Executive Council meeting started its work on morning of 21<sup>st</sup> of November 2017 in Istanbul, Turkey. APA Delegations from Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Korea DPR, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Lebanon, Mongolia, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, UAE, Uzbekistan and Vietnam participated in this meeting.
2. H.E. Dr. NGUON Nhel, vice-president of the National Assembly of Kingdom of Cambodia and chairman of the 1<sup>st</sup> Executive Council chaired the meeting.
3. The Agenda of the meeting (Annex I) was adopted and the members of the Bureau were elected as follows: Honorable Mr. Mikhail Emelianov of Russian Federation State Duma as Vice-Chair and Honorable Mr. Shahab UDDIN, Member of Bangladesh Parliament as Rapporteur.
4. The chairman presented a summary of his report of the First Executive Council Meeting including the 24 APA resolutions of standing committees and expressed his sincere hope that through Presidency of Turkey, APA would be in a position to promote itself to even a higher status. The full report is attached as Annex II.
5. H.E. Dr. Majidi, Secretary General of APA on his statement addressed the topics which were discussed on Political, Economic, Social and Staff Regulations Standing Committees and encouraged member parliamentarians to actively participate in all meetings during the upcoming Presidency of Turkey as they did previously.
6. On 5<sup>th</sup> Agenda item of the meeting, relating to Consideration and Recommendation of draft Resolutions to the plenary, member delegations raised few procedural and substantive topics. The chairman requested them to forward their views to the relevant standing committees in 2018.
7. On Agenda item 6 of the meeting, the following Vice-Presidents were elected for 2018: The Senate of Islamic Republic of Pakistan as Vice-President on Political affairs, The Council of Representative of Iraq as Vice-President on Staff & Financial Regulations, The House of Representative of Cyprus as Vice-President on Economic & Sustainable Development, The Vice-President on Social and Cultural affairs is yet to be announced.
8. For APA Presidency of 2020-2021 it was stated that only the Senate of Pakistan has expressed its desire and it will be decided during the plenary meeting.
9. As to the communication regarding the observer ship of Inter- Parliamentary

Assembly of CIS and TURKPA, the Executive Council considered and recommended its adoption by the Plenary

10. The meeting adopted the draft agenda of the APA 10<sup>th</sup> plenary (Annex III).

## INAUGURAL SESSION

11. The 10<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly was inaugurated by playing National Anthem of Republic of Turkey. Honorable Burhan KAYATURK, Head of Turkish APA delegation delivered his welcome address and expressed his appreciation for the APA achievements by Cambodia during her tenure as the President of APA and stated that Asia enjoys a vast variety of potentials for growth and can play an influential role in world's affair provided that Asians stand by themselves and help each other, out in times of crisis (Annex IV).

12. APA Secretary General, H.E. Dr. Mohamad Reza Majidi, in his opening remarks praised the role of Cambodia in promoting APA objectives and sincerely welcomed the new era of Turkey's Presidency which will bring with itself high hopes and aspirations for all in Asian community (Annex V).

13. Honorable Dr. NGUON Nhel, Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Kingdom of Cambodia and outgoing President of APA, congratulated the Parliament of Republic of Turkey for undertaking the APA Presidency and expressed his wishes for the New-President that through his next two years, APA will witness more achievements through harnessing supports from member parliaments.

14. Honorable Ismail KAHRAMAN, Speaker of Grand National Assembly of Turkey presented his opening remarks. Among many important topics, he stated that we would be hearing a lot about the theme of this meeting: “Sustaining Peace and Development in Asia” in today's and tomorrow's deliberations. We will see how parliamentary diplomacy could be activated in this respect. Unfortunately, conflicts have become wide-spread to even higher level due to the easy access to technology to an extent which negatively influences all mankind, directly or indirectly. We are in favor of peace, security and stability for all in Asian continent. Turkey as a country to have had martyrs in the Korean War, will confront all those who would threaten peace. Feto terrorist group stroke a coup on 15 July 2015, wearing military closes and we lost 270 of our compatriots but our friends stood by us and supported our cause. Peace and Development are like twin brothers. They nurture from each other and should never have their relations be cut. In other parts of his statement, he addressed the atrocities committed against Rohingya and called on all to seek a lasting solution for this intolerable situation (Annex VI).

He assigned Honorable Mr. Burhan Kayaturk as his High Representative for chairing the meetings.

## PLENARY SESSION

15. On the morning of November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017 the 10<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session was opened with one minute of silence to respect for the human casualties of earthquake in Kermanshah, Iran and Iraq.

After the adoption of Agenda, Members of the Bureau were elected, General Nipat Thonglek of Thailand as Rapporteur and three Vice-Presidents as Vice-Chairs of Plenary by rotation. The report of the two years Presidency of Cambodia was presented by Dr. NGUON Nhel (Annex VII)

16. After handing over the gavel of the 10<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session from Dr. NGUON Nhel to the next APA President, Honorable Ismail KAHRAMAN, Speaker of Parliament of Turkey addressed the audience and stated that in addition to the Earthquake in Iran, there has also been a flood in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia and we all sympathies with these victims. He also expressed his appreciation to the speaker of the Cambodian Parliament, Honorable Heng Samerin to have successfully and professionally held the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Plenary Sessions (Annex VIII).

17. H.E. Dr. Majidi, the APA Secretary General also presented the report of the APA activities in last year. He emphasized that APA should focus on the operational parts of the adopted resolutions and gave examples of few ones from each standing committees (Annex IX).

18. The general debate of the Plenary Session on the topic of “Sustaining Peace and Development in Asia” started by Member Parliaments. At first, Speakers of the Parliaments took the floor in the order of their registrations. Honorable Mr. Burhan of Turkey chaired the meeting.

Kuwait: Honorable Speaker of the Parliament of Kuwait stated that “ what brings us together here is the historical links...we have to keep solidarity with each other...two-third of world population lives in Asia and there are abundance of energy and civilizations here then how can this continent face hunger and conflicts in spite of such wealth?...we should address the challenges we face in Palestine, Rohingya and support all who struggle to restore peace and promote development in this continent.

Bahrain: Honorable Speaker of Bahrain stated that expressed his thanks to brotherly nation of Turkey for warm hospitality accorded to all participants and for hosting such an important meeting of APA. He also stated that the pillars of peace and developments are: Respect, collaboration and justice in our region. He emphasized that the private and public sectors should engage themselves in

promoting peace and developments of Asia specifically through 2030 plan. “We should expand our diplomatic relations among ourselves to resolve differences”.

Afghanistan: Honorable speaker of Afghanistan:” Our country has abundance of natural minerals and is very suitable for energy corridor for promotion of trade and economic cooperation among central and south Asia...sustainable development can not be reached without peace and sustainable security...SDG plan can only be pursued if such requirements are met. Afghanistan is the heart of Asia. Thus the persistent of conflict and insecurity will make the whole Asian continent insecure. The government has launched the inter-Afghan dialogue plan and is pursuing to bring onboard opposition groups to improve security situation in the country.

Iran: Honorable speaker of Iran: “We are thankful to Turkey for hosting our meeting and also Dr. Majidi, Secretary General and Secretariat of APA for supporting it. Asia has huge potentials for regional cooperation...terrorism and extremism are threatening international peace and security and examples are in Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq and Yemen. ISIS is defeated where America did all it could to support them. We should congratulate nations of Syria and Iraq. That was achieved due to the alertness of nations in our region. APA should take measures in creating an atmosphere for dialogue for peace; developing economic relations and cultural cooperation.

Saudi Arabia: Honorable speaker of Saudi Arabia: “We are willing to extend our support to those countries wishing to develop their economies. We should promote the culture of dialogue and learn to live together. We support all international efforts to counter terrorism. We fight extremist ideology in our country. States in our region support Yemen and we have contributed 8 million dollars to them. We should call on Myanmar government to bear the responsibility of Rohingya crisis based on international law. We call on Istanbul Declaration to address the Houthi issue.

19. During afternoon session of the 10<sup>th</sup> Plenary, the following parliamentary delegations took the floor and presented their views on the theme of the meeting:

Cambodia, Bhutan, Tajikistan, Cyprus, Indonesia, Pakistan, United Arab Emirates, India, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Russia, Laos, China, DPR Korea, Lebanon, Palestine, Jordan, Thailand, Iraq.

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

**(22 November 2017)**

20. The APA Women Parliamentarians meeting and Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs held its meeting on 22 November 2017 in Istanbul – Turkey with participation by representatives of Bahrain – Cambodia – China – India – Indonesia – Iran – Iraq – Russian Federation – Thailand-Turkey – Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates and adopted its agenda.

21. Honorable Dr. Ftemeh Zolghadr, MP from Iran chaired the meeting, Honorable Al Madhi, from Bahrain was elected as the Vice Chairman and Honorable Azza Sulaiman Bin Sulaiman from UAE was elected as the Rapportuer. H.E. Dr. Ali Khorram, APA Deputy Secretary-General assisted the Chair.

22. The Chairman opened the meeting by appreciating the professional arrangements and excellent hospitality by Grand National Assembly of Turkey. The Deputy Secretary-General Dr. Ali Khorram informed the meeting that the Vice- President on Social and Cultural Affairs is yet to be nominated; therefore, the Secretariat has requested Honorable Dr. Zolghadr to chair this meeting. He then briefly described the draft resolution on APA Women Parliamentarian.

The meeting took note with appreciation of the report presented by the APA Deputy Secretary-General on the subject.

23. Honorable Mrs. Ilksen Ceritoglu Kurt of Turkey presented a Report on "Sustainable Development from Women Perspective". She described the achievements of women in almost all countries but meanwhile indicate that women especially in poor countries have less power than men when it comes to decisions and resources in their households. She emphasized that social policy is the science of peace, stability and harmony in general aiming to ensure social justice foreseeing policies and measures to eradicate the reasons of class wars or class distinctions within the society. (Annex X).

24. Honorable representative of Saudi Arabia expressed her thanks to APA Secretariat for providing this opportunity to Asian women to discuss their own views and share it with each other. She indicated that during the recent years women in Saudi Arabia witnessed great progress and now women and

youth are enjoying a lot of opportunities to work and show their abilities in working for public or private sectors. She also mentioned that number of active women in Parliament and media has a meaningful increase.

25. Honorable Ms. Zugura Rahmatullina from Russian Federation pointed out that the role of women in modern world has changed and they are active and successful in economic and politic areas and more important is that the women are symbol of peace and confidence. She also informed the meeting that the second Eurasia women's Forum will be held on 20-21 September 2018 in St. Petersburg – Russian Federation and will address the issue of empowerment and the role of women in politics, digital economy, innovative development of social sphere, environmental security, international cooperation, promotion of charity and humanitarian projects. She has invited APA Member Parliaments to participate in this forum and expressed sincere hope that Asian women also have greater presence in their countries (Annex XI).

26. Honorable Rofi Munavar, representative of Indonesia briefly referred to discrimination against women in some Asian countries and that they are subject to violence and war crimes in many parts of Asia. She asked the APA women parliamentarians to work on changing this unfair situation. She also proposed that the APA women parliamentarians meeting be upgraded to Standing Committee.

27. Dr. Ali Khorram has appreciated the concerns on women situation and welcomed any concrete proposal for Women Forum but informed the meeting that according to APA Charter we have only 4 Standing Committee meetings and all issues should be presented under the umbrella of one of these Standing Committee meetings.

28. Honorable Dr. Hamad ALGHFELI, representative of UAE Federal National Council presented a convincing report on situation of women in the United Arab Emirates. She indicated that the women in her country have no limits to occupy the high governmental positions and diplomatic posts. The Emirate Gender Balance Council is established to reduce the gap between the two genders in the work in all sectors of the state. This Report is also attached for ease of reference as Annex XII.

29. Honorable Dr. Zolghadr, as the representative of Islamic Parliament of Iran, informed the meeting that in Iran women are encouraged to participate in the all sectors activities and are serious on eradication of any kind of gender discrimination. Iranian women have strong presence in public and private sectors and the number of women parliamentarians has increased by 100 percent in the last general election. She expressed hope that APA can upgrade the status of women in Asia through adopting effective regulations.

30. Honorable Emran AL-KHATĪB, representative of Palestine informed the meeting that a woman member of Parliament of Palestine is arrested by Israel and has requested the APA Member Parliaments to condemn this brutal action. He also indicated that in Palestine women and men are fighting against aggression shoulder to shoulder.

31. Honorable Dr. Hanan from Iraq has presented a background of women activities in Iraq pre and post Saddam Hussein dictatorship and mentioned that today Iraqi women are active in almost all sectors. 25 percent of Parliament seats are occupied by women. Of course in recent years ISIS has imposed taugh restrictions in some parts of Iraq and women were subject to brutal crimes. Fortunately, ISIS is force out from Iraq territory and we are grateful for assistance of our friends and neighbors for this achievement.

32. Honorable Mrs. Suwanee Sirivejchapun from Thailand informed the meeting that in her country law guarantees the gender equality. She supports the proposal of representatives of Turkey – UAE – Iran and others to include at least one woman in each participating delegation in APA Member Parliaments. She said this is a firm regulation implemented by AIPA and IPU and it should be applicable in APA. (Annex XIII).

33. Honorable representative of China also reported a great progress in the life of Chinese women but indicated that in APA we should do something for the women of all Asian countries. Women are the first target of terrorism and violence therefore as women parliamentarians we have to support the gender equality laws and regulations. If in our countries there are laws prevent equal opportunity between genders they should be revised.

34. Mr. Lokman Ayvaj, Ex-member of Grand National Assembly of Turkey has presented a report on situation of disables in the society and requested

APA to open a new chapter in its activities to facilitate the life of disables and include their wellbeing in its agenda (Annex XIV).

35. Honorable Mr. Christakis Tziouanis representative of Cyprus, due to lack of time presented the text of his report to be included in the Report of this Standing Committee meeting which is attached as Annex XV.

36. At the end, all draft Resolutions of Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs were considered and referred to the Plenary for adoption.

List of Resolutions are as follows:

- Draft Resolution on Measures to Promote Cultural Diversity and Protect Cultural Heritage in Asia
- Draft Resolution on Asian Integration through Information and Communication Technology
- Draft Resolution on Collaboration on Health Equity in Asia
- Draft Resolution on Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers in Asia
- Draft Resolution on Asian Parliamentarians Against Corruption
- Draft Resolution on APA Women Parliamentarians
- Draft Resolution on Promoting Inter-Faith Dialogue and Harmony among World Religions
- Draft Resolution on Legal and Legislative Cooperation in Combating the Smuggling of Cultural Items in Asia
- Draft Resolution on Effective Cooperation in Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking in Asia
- Draft Resolution on Humanitarian Aid to Syria, Iraq, Yemen, And Myanmar on The Verge of the Humanitarian Catastrophe

## **Report of the Meeting of the Standing Committee on Political Affairs and meeting of SCCAP**

**(22 November 2017)**

37. The Standing Committee on Political Affairs held its meeting on 22 November 2017, in Istanbul – Turkey. APA Delegations from parliaments of Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Korea PDR, Kuwait, Pakistan, Palestine, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Turkey and United Arab Emirates participated in this meeting.

38. Honorable Senator Mushahid Hussain, Member of the Senate of Islamic Republic of Pakistan as the representative of APA Vice President for Political Affairs chaired the meeting. Honorable Naif Al HADID of Jordan Parliament elected as Vice-Chairman. The agenda of the meeting was adopted. His Excellency, Dr. Ali Khorram, APA Deputy Secretary-General assisted the Chair. In his opening remarks, Dr. Khorram referred to the background of SCCAP and the sub-regional groups established by APA Member Parliaments in 2016 and underscored the results and achievements of these sub-group meetings held in Manama and Abu Dhabi as follows:

- a) The model for Asian Parliament which was proposed by Member Parliaments has a Forum status whereby the decisions have advisory nature as opposed to its executive or compulsory characteristic,
- b) The Arab group addressed, inter-alia, the criteria to be met in the nomination, election and dismissal of Asian Parliament's Secretary-General,
- c) The Sub-regions in East Asia expressed that any positive signal for AP by their Speakers of Parliaments is due to the consent of their States or Governments with respect to the idea in advance.
- d) Whenever the model for Asian Parliament is finalized and majority of Members support it as a whole plan, then for respecting the legal basis, APA secretariat should communicate with all APA Member Parliaments and gets officially their views.

The full report of the SCCAP on Sub-regional Meetings and the Background Report of the Senate of Pakistan is attached as Annex XVI.

39. Senator Mushahid Hussain also briefed the meeting on present political and economic situation of Asian countries and expressed his appreciation for election of Senate of Pakistan as APA Vice- President. He also provided the background of his Parliament on establishing APA and its final objective to serve as an Asian Parliament. The Chairman said although converting APA to Asian Parliament is a long term project and needs a lot of understanding and cooperation among Asian countries, but we have to continue our work.

40. Honorable representative of Indonesia agreed that creation of Asian Parliament is a long term idea but it would be appropriated if APA determines a deadline to expedite its process.

Honorable chairman responded that we are in the beginning of a long way and cannot impose any date to other Member Parliaments. Hopefully in the Standing Committee meeting on Political Affairs in Islamabad we will talk and may find ways to reach to the ultimate goal in a shorter period.

41. Honorable Zuheir Sandooqa, representative of Palestine presented some new amendments on the draft Resolution on “Unwavering Support for the Palestinian people”. H.E. Dr. Khorram informed that APA Secretariat will receive and consider these amendments and if they are editorial or technical, will be incorporated, otherwise will be referred to the next Standing Committee on Political Affairs in Islamabad. He offered distinguished representative of Palestine to participate in the drafting committee of Istanbul Declaration and present his amendments.

42. Honorable representative of Saudi Arabia informed the meeting that few weeks back Capital of Kingdom was attacked by ballistic rocket and asked the meeting to condemn it in the present draft Resolutions before the Standing Committee meeting.

43. APA Deputy Secretary-General expressed his regrets on such event and requested him to present it in a written amendment. He reiterated that for immediate result it may be included in the Istanbul Declaration.

List of Resolutions are as the following:

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

## **Report of the Standing Committee on Staff and Financial Regulations**

**22 November 2017**

44. The meeting of Standing Committee on Staff and Financial Regulations was participated by member parliaments from Azerbaijan- Bahrain- Cambodia – China – Indonesia - Iran – Iraq – Jordan – Korea DPR- Kuwait – Pakistan - Palestine – Russia – Saudi Arabia – Thailand and Turkey. Honorable Dr. Hanan from Iraq Parliament as the APA Vice- President chaired the meeting. Honorable Nhem Thavy from Cambodia was elected as Vice Chairperson and Honorable Azza Sulaiman Bin Sulaiman from UAE served as Rapportuer. His Excellency Dr. Ali Khorram has assisted the chair. He has provided a brief report on the background of draft Resolution and its attachment. He also informed the meeting that according to the instruction of 1<sup>st</sup> APA Executive Council meeting, Secretariat has sent a letter to all Speakers and requested them to identify their model of payment of assessed contribution. APA Deputy Secretary-General informed that although a reminder was also sent and all member Parliaments were requested to expedite on choosing one of three models, Secretariat has received reply from 6 Parliaments namely: Iraq- Iran- Saudi Arabia – Korea DPR – Palau and Pakistan.

45. Honorable Odeh O. Al-Rowaie, representative of Kuwait said we have also sent a letter to the Secretariat and conveyed our views. He asked the inclusion of Kuwait in the list by APA Secretariat. Considering the fact that Secretariat has not received such letter, Dr. Khorram requested him to announce their model of payment. The distinguished Representative of Kuwait said they have many questions about the transparency of the budget and the ways and means of spending and auditing system of such budget. The idea was supported by Russian Federation and China too.

46. Dr. Khorram mentioned that there is full transparency in the proposed Budget while half of that is the running cost of the Secretariat and the rest is subjected to the approval of the Plenary. With regard to Auditing System, such mechanism is foreseen in Staff & Financial Regulations document, adopted by the 7<sup>th</sup> Plenary in 2014.

47. Chairperson of the meeting explained the extensive discussions on this subject in previous APA meetings and reiterated that we should start to shoulder our responsibility in this organization. Honorable Thavy from Cambodia said

the ways and model of payment was finalized in 2014 in Phnom Penh and now in 2017 still none of APA Member Parliaments has paid a single penny to assist APA Secretariat. Honorable Senator CHHIT kim yet also from Cambodia presented his views in this respect. Dr. Khorram invited all APA Member Parliaments to expedite on submitting their desired model of payment to the Secretariat for forwarding to the next Standing Committee meeting in Bagdad – Iraq.

48. Honorable representatives of Saudi Arabia and UAE also requested all APA Member Parliaments to inform the Secretariat of their model of payment and their views and comments in written and let the Standing Committee meeting in Iraq finalize the case. They also appreciated financial and logistic support of Islamic Parliament of Iran to the APA Secretariat.

The Resolution is as the following:

- Draft Resolution on Planning APA Budget

**Report of the APA Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable  
Development meeting of Energy Advisory Group**

**23 November 2017**

49. The Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development and Energy Advisory Group held its meeting on 23 November 2017 and adopted the agenda. The representatives of following Member Parliaments participated in the meeting:

50. Afghanistan – Azerbaijan – Bahrain – Cambodia – China – Cyprus – India – Indonesia – Iran – Jordan – Korea DPR – Kuwait – Pakistan – Palestine – Russian Federation – Saudi Arabia – Thailand – Turkey – Vietnam – UAE and Uzbekistan.

51. Honorable Mr. Nicos Tornaritis from Cyprus chaired the meeting as the Vice President of APA. Honorable Dr. Khalil Abdullah Abul from Kuwait, chairman of Energy Advisory Group, was elected as the vice-Chairperson and Honorable Dr. Ali Kazemi from Islamic Parliament of Iran was elected as Rapporteur of the Standing Committee.

52. H.E. Mr. Kia Tabatabaee, APA Deputy Secretary-General opened the meeting and presented a brief information on the Energy Advisory Group as well as the 6 Draft Resolutions on the agenda for consideration of the participants. He requested the participants to pay attention to the two pages attached to the Draft Agenda for further elaboration on some points in the presented Draft Resolutions such as Asian Integrated Energy Market.

53. Chairman of Standing Committee meeting presented his statement and at the outset assured all APA Member Parliaments of his dedication to uphold the objectives of Asian Parliamentary Assembly on promoting cooperation among parliaments and parliamentarians in Asia. He informed that the meeting of Standing Committee will be arranged on late September 2018 and details shall be conveyed through APA Secretariat in due time. The statement of chairman is attached as Annex XVII.

54. Honorable Mr. Bhartruhari Mahtab from India stated that increasing demand of developing countries to provide access to affordable energy to all by 2030 and socio-economic challenges such as poverty, population, inequality and instability the countries in Asia are faced with increases the need for greater

energy cooperation among the countries of Asian continent. He also proposed some new editorial amendments to the Draft Resolution on Integrated Energy Market in Asia and Draft Resolution on the Role of APA Parliamentarians in Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals which will be incorporated accordingly.

55. Honorable Dr. Mohsen Koohkan from Iran presented a report on importance of access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern sources of energy for all countries as the most important need. He also briefed the meeting on plans and objectives of the Iranian 6<sup>th</sup> Development Program in the field of new and clean sources of energy especially on encouraging and supporting the private sector to meet its growing energy needs in coming decade. This report is attached as Annex XVIII.

56. Honorable Senator Chhit Kim Yet from Cambodia informed the meeting that his country is in need of clean and affordable energy sources but relying on solar energy due to costly panels is difficult. He said recently the Chinese engineers had a great progress on production system of these panels as well as inventing a mechanism to produce energy from the wastes which is much cheaper and applicable in poor countries.

57. Honorable Dr. Khalil Abul as the chairperson of Energy Advisory Group expressed appreciation to the Host Parliament for excellent hospitality and presented a report on the background activities of the Group. He invited all APA Member Parliaments to participate in the next meeting of Energy Advisory Group in February 2018.

58. Honorable Mr. Jong Hyok Ri from Korea DPR condemned all kinds of unjust sanctions and blockade against some countries including Iran, Syria, Palestine and his country by the USA, westerners and Israel. These sanctions have affected the life of civilians and are against human rights. His report is attached as Annex XIX.

59. Honorable Mr. Nipat Thonglik from Thailand informed the meeting that in coordination with UAE they recently have hosted an international roundtable gathering composed of 22 countries and 12 organizations to review the energy consumption and demand in Asia.

60. Kuwait distributed a proposal on Clean Energy in Asia as well as the report

of second meeting of Energy Advisory Group held in Phnom Penh on 2 October 2017 (Annex XX).

List of Resolution are as the following:

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

**61. The Next President:** The Senate of Pakistan was adopted to be as the next-President of APA in 2020 – 2021.

## ISTANBUL DECLARATION



### Asian Parliamentary Assembly Tenth Plenary Session 21 November-24 November 2017 Istanbul, TURKEY

## İSTANBUL DECLARATION

**We**, Members of Parliament from Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, DPR Korea, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq Jordan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Mongolia, Pakistan, Palestine, Laos, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Uzbekistan and Vietnam gathered in Istanbul from 21 November to 24 November 2017, at the invitation of Ismail KAHRAMAN, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey and current APA President;

**Welcoming** Bali Declaration on achieving the 2030 agenda through Inclusive Development, as the outcome document of World Parliamentary Forum on Sustainable Development, held in Bali, Indonesia, on September 6-7, 2017.

**Promoting** women's representation in public life particularly in Parliament.

**Recognizing** that peoples in Asia have brilliant civilizations, philosophies, religions, diverse cultures, arts, ideologies, and have made great achievements in the fields of socio-economic development, science and technology, among others, to meet the demands of societies;

**Concerned** by the increasing tensions in parts of Asia, particularly the threat of terrorism, and the suffering of people affected by ongoing conflicts, especially displaced people, and further concerned by the dire situation of millions of women and young people in all war-torn areas. We, therefore, stress the importance of maintaining world peace, security, stability and development;

**Emphasizing** that violent extremism, which can be conducive to terrorism, should not be associated with any culture, civilization, religion or ethnicity and should not be tolerated. The resolving of issues through radicalization, violent extremism, or terrorism causes great hardship and breeds even more violence, settlement of the issues should be by dialogue and negotiation;

**Welcoming** the recent great achievements in defeating Daesh in collaboration with Iraqi and Syrian people.

**Underlining** our commitment of building societies based on the rule of law with Asian Parliaments not only representing Asian people, but also enacting legislation and promoting dialogues, reconciliation and a culture of peace;

DO HEREBY EXPRESS OUR COMMITMENT TO:

**Emphasize** the urgent need to undertake transparent investigation into serious human rights abuses and violations, including sexual violence and abuse and violence against children concerning people of Rakhine State and in particular Rohingya and to hold to account all those responsible for such acts and Stresses the importance of granting immediate and unhindered access to the UN Fact Finding Mission established by the UN Human Rights Council in March 2017,

**Emphasize** the importance of safe and dignified return of refugees and displaced people to their place of origin for the long-term solution of the crises in line with the recommendations of Kofi Annan Commission Report and welcome the signed instrument between the governments of Myanmar and Bangladesh to that end on 23 November 2017,

**Demand** the Government of Myanmar to grant immediate, safe and unhindered access to UN Agencies and their partners as well as other domestic and international non-governmental organizations to provide humanitarian assistance in Rakhine State as well as to ensure the safety and security of all communities particularly Rohingyas in Rakhine State and humanitarian personnel.

**Urge** unimpeded delivery of humanitarian aid in Myanmar, Syria, Yemen and Iraq.

**Appreciate** the role and actions of the people and government of Bangladesh in giving shelter to more than a million Rohingya.

**Encourage** the establishment of a national, legal framework as well as a broad legal framework for the protection of migrant workers, noting the legal and illegal status of the different cases

**Emphasize** the need to promote peace, stability and development in Asia through peaceful resolution of ongoing conflicts and mutually beneficial economic cooperation;

**Underscore** the importance of Iraq's territorial unity and call on member states to show solidarity with the Iraqi Parliament, in the face of critical developments in their country;

**Express** grave concern at the alarming deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Yemen and strongly reject any attack on Holy Places of Islam located in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia by any militant group.

**Reaffirm** its support for an independent sovereign and contiguous Palestine within 1967 borders with Al Quds as its capital, condemn the illegal settlement activities, demolitions, and other violations of the occupation forces, welcome the reconciliation process for the unity of Palestine and urge the international community to re-launch the peace process based on established parameters and the Arab Peace Plan.

**Welcome** the valuable efforts and achievements in the framework of Astana Process to deescalate violence, facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the affected people in Syria and provide conditions to find a political solution for the Syrian crisis

**Congratulate** Pakistan on being elected as the next President of APA for the term 2020 – 2021 and also express the hope that Pakistan will continue with its efforts to embarking on the journey to realize the vision of the Asian Parliament ,

**Thank** Turkey for its warm, gracious and efficient hospitality in hosting the Tenth Plenary Session in İstanbul. Appreciate the continuous support provided by the President of Turkey in strengthening the cooperation and solidarity among the APA Member Countries.

The next plenary session will be held in 2018 in Turkey.

## **CLOSING SESSION**

63. The closing session was convened at 6 p.m. in Swiss Hotel in Istanbul, and unanimously adopted 24 resolutions; Istanbul Declaration; and the Report of the 10th APA Plenary. The text of adopted Resolutions is attached as the Annex XXII.

64. Deputy Secretary-General, Dr. Khorram pointed out that the 10<sup>th</sup> APA Plenary is proud of having women as the chairpersons of 50 per cent of the standing committees and this is an excellent record among international organizations and inter-parliamentary unions. He also informed the Plenary that the Head of six APA delegations were women and this was another record for our organization.

## **OTHER MATTERS**

Granting Observer Status:

65. As to the decision regarding the observer ship of Inter- Parliamentary Assembly of CIS and TURKPA (Annex XXIII), the Plenary considered and adopted it. The Plenary also instructed the Secretariat a) to inform the related organizations of this adoption and b) to apply for the same status from them for APA.

## ANNEXES

### ANNEX-XXIII



**APA/ Decision/2017/01  
23 November 2017**

#### **APA Decision**

**on**

#### **Granting Observer Status to the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the Member Parliaments of Commonwealth Independence States (IPA CIS) and Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic-Speaking Countries (TurkPA)**

Recalling the principles and objectives enshrined in APA Charter, and Upon the request of the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the Member Parliaments of Commonwealth Independence States and Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic-Speaking Countries (TurkPA) and recognizing that APA and these organizations share many objectives, including promotion of mutual understanding and trust among member nations and strengthening cooperation in all fields throughout Asia, the 10<sup>th</sup> APA Plenary decides to grant the Observer Status to the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the Member Parliaments of Commonwealth Independence States (IPA CIS) and Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic-Speaking Countries (TurkPA). APA Secretariat will reciprocally apply for the same position in the both parliamentary organizations.

66. The list of participants is attached as Annex XXIV.



ANNEX- I

## Asian Parliamentary Assembly The 10<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session

*“Sustaining Peace and Development in Asia”*

### Agenda

# Second Executive Council Meeting

21 November 2017  
Istanbul, TURKEY

## Draft Agenda

- 1- Adoption of the Agenda Election of the Bureau,
- 3- Report by **H.E. Dr. NGUON Nhel**, Vice-President of the National Assembly of Kingdom of Cambodia and Chairman of the 1<sup>st</sup> Executive Council,
- 4 – Report by **H.E Dr. Mohammad Reza Majidi**, Secretary General of APA
- 5 - Consideration and Recommendations of Draft Resolutions to the Plenary Session for adoption,
- 6 - Reconfirmation of Nomination for the Vice Presidents of APA in 2018,
- 7 – Recommendation of the next APA President for 2020-2021,
- 8 - Consideration of the Draft Agenda of the 10<sup>th</sup> APA Plenary Session,
- 9- Any other matters.

## ANNEX- II



Report of the  
Honorable Dr. NGUON Nhel, Vice President of National Assembly  
Chairman of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Executive Council Meeting

Excellencies,  
Ladies & Gentlemen

21 NOVEMBER 2017

It is my pleasure to attend the Second Executive Council in the beautiful city of Istanbul. I am honored as the Chairman to report to you what was adopted and concluded in the First Executive Council in order to facilitate the process in the Second Executive Council meeting:

- 1) The first meeting of Executive Council of Asian Parliamentary Assembly in 2017 was held on 2-3 October 2017 in Phnom Penh, the Kingdom of Cambodia.
- 2) APA parliamentary delegations from Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lao PDR, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Palestine, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Thailand, Turkey, UAE and Vietnam participated in this meeting.
- 3) At the Inaugural ceremony, the Second Vice-President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia and Chairman of Organizing Committee of the Executive Council expressed his gratitude to the Islamic Parliament of Iran for supporting the APA Secretariat in smooth and successful performance. He also referred to the successful work of the host country Cambodia ever since the Eighth Plenary session of APA in 2015. He called upon APA Member Parliaments attending the Executive Council to consider and adopt 24 draft resolutions before them.

- 4) The Secretary-General of APA presented his opening statement at the Inaugural Ceremony and on behalf of APA members and Secretariat, congratulated Honorable Heng Samrin, the speaker of the Parliament of Kingdom of Cambodia for his valuable leadership of APA activities during the past two years. He also indicated that the results of the work of this council would soon be forwarded to the 10<sup>th</sup> APA Assembly for the final approval.
  
- 5) Honorable Samdech Heng Samrin, President of the National Assembly of Kingdom of Cambodia and President of Asian Parliamentary Assembly, delivered his opening address at the Inaugural Ceremony. He pointed out that APA has been able to play an important and constructive role to contribute to seeking solutions for various issues faced by the international community, particularly Asian countries. He also indicated that APA has been able to raise the voice of Asian people and reflect it to the world community and called on APA members to strengthen bilateral as well as multilateral cooperation and incorporate their decisions in relevant parliament legislatives.
  
- 6) The Agenda and the Program of Work of the Executive Council were adopted unanimously by the Member Parliaments. H.E. Mr. A. Chepa Head of Parliamentary delegation of Russian Federation and H.E. Mr. Z. Sanduqa, Head of Parliamentary delegaion of Palestine were elected as Vice-Chairperson and Rapporteur of the meeting by acclamation.
  
- 7) The Chairman made an introductory statement and the Secretary-General presented his report on the APA activities in 2017. The Deputy Secretary-General informed the meeting about receiving a resolution sponsored by Turkey and Iran on the situation of Myanmar as well as several amendments by delegations from Russia and India on different resolutions. He said these documents would be at the disposal of relevant Standing Committees in 2018 for further consideration.
  
- 8) The following draft resolutions of each Standing Committee were considered and recommended to the Plenary for final approval:

\* Standing Committee on Political Affairs:

- Draft resolution on “ Towards an Asian Parliament “
- Draft resolution on “ Good Governance “
- Draft resolution on “ Rule of Law and Judicial Empowerment”
- Draft resolution on “ Good Parliamentary Practices”
- Draft resolution on “ Building Prosperity in Asia...”
- Draft resolution on “ Asian Parliament and Government ...”
- Draft resolution on “ Asian Parliaments' Unwavering Support...”

\*Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development Affairs:

- Draft resolution on “ Asian Integration Energy Market”
- Draft resolution on “ Environment Issues”
- Draft resolution on “ Financial Affairs for Economic Growth”
- Draft resolution on “ Poverty Eradication “
- Draft resolution on “ The Role of APA Parliament...”
- Draft resolution on “ Water and Sanitation in Asia for all”

\*Standing Committee on Staff and Financial Regulations:

- Draft resolution on “Planning APA Budget”.

\*Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs:

- Draft resolution on “Measures to Promote Cultural Diversity...”
- Draft resolution on “ Asian Integration through Information...”
- Draft resolution on “ Collaboration on Health Equity in Asia”
- Draft resolution on “ Protection and Promotion of Rights of Migrant Workers in Asia”
- Draft resolution on “ Asian Parliamentarians Against Corruption”
- Draft resolution on “ APA Women Parliamentarians”
- Draft resolution on “ Promoting Inter-Faith Dialogue and Harmony..”
- Draft resolution on “ Legal and Legislative Cooperation in...”
- Draft resolution on “ Effective Cooperation in Combating Illicit Drug.”
- Draft resolution on “Humanitarian Aid to Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Myanmar on the verge of Humanitarian Catastrophe”.

- 9) When presenting above resolutions, several delegations including India, Indonesia, Iran, Russia, China, Cambodia, Jordan, Bahrain and the others, made substantive as well as editorial observations. Deputy Secretary General stated that the editorial and technical remarks will be incorporated into the text of resolutions provided that they are submitted in written forms. Substantive remarks would be forwarded to the relevant Standing Committees for further consideration.
- 10) When the Staff and Financial Regulations Resolution was raised, Deputy Secretary General mentioned that on the basis of paragraph 5 of this resolution, the secretariat has provided the Budget Estimate 2018 in light of the proposal by the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Staff and Financial Regulations. Dr. Khorram, Deputy Secretary General, presented the details of the Budget in three categories and asked for the payment of the Assessed Contribution for the implementation of this Budget.
- 11) With regard to item 8 of the Staff and Financial Regulations Resolution, Dr Khorram said, upon the instruction of the Executive Council, the APA Secretariat would communicate with Member Parliaments to find the most desired model of payment of the Assessed Contribution and will inform the Executive Council about its outcome. Then the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Staff and Financial Regulations took the floor and asked the Chairman of Executive Council to instruct the Secretariat to communicate with Member Parliaments. The Chairman instructed the Secretariat to do so.
- 12) The delegate of Afghanistan asked for the deletion of its name in Paragraph 15 of the preamble of the Resolution of Drug Trafficking which was supported by other delegations. This proposal was accepted as editorial correction,
- 13) On the case of Resolution on Myanmar, there were various comments and discussions but Deputy Secretary-General proposed that with an editorial correction, the meeting adopts the Resolution and further

consideration be forwarded to the Standing Committee. The Meeting approved changing “Syria, Iraq, Yemen & Myanmar” to “Asia” in preamble of Paragraph 3 of the Resolution and the Chairman concluded the debate on the Resolution.

- 14) Taking into consideration all the above deliberations, Parliamentary delegations attending the first Executive Council meeting unanimously adopted 24 resolutions presented by the relevant Standing Committees.
  
- 15) In addressing the Agenda item on Nomination of APA Vice Presidents for 2018, the following APA Members were volunteered and received the confirmation of the Executive Council:
  - A. The Senate of Pakistan for Standing Committee on Political Affairs.
  
  - B. The House of Representative of Cypress for Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development Affairs,
  
  - C. The Parliament of Iraq for Standing Committee on Staff and Financial Regulations,
  
- 16) In the Agenda item “Any other matters”:
  - A. Delegation of Bahrain proposed the following item to be considered in future meetings: Maintaining National Unity and Territorial Integrity of Asian countries.
  
  - B. Delegation of Iran offered to host a meeting of APA Research Centers of APA Member Parliaments.
  
  - C. Deputy Secretary-General mentioned that APA Secretariat, in each official meeting, in close cooperation with the host parliament, does its utmost efforts to attract the maximum participation of Member Parliaments. Realization of this task requires sincere cooperation of the host parliament’s authorities as well as assistance of the APA President or Vice Presidents. In recent years, APA Secretariat has received several correspondences from APA Member Parliaments, concerning visa issuance for participation in the APA meetings. Therefore, in order to facilitate maximum participation in APA

meetings, cooperation by all Member Parliaments on issuing visa is called for.

The Chairman supported and adopted the above proposals.

17) Meeting of APA Energy Advisory Group:

Many interested delegations attended this Advisory Group and shared their views among each other on the subject matter. The chairman of this group, after listening, debating and collecting views and observations of all participants, concluded that more substantive interaction is needed on the part of APA which will in turn call for more time to be devoted to this topic.

18) Adoption of the report of the meeting:

Parliamentary delegations attending the first Executive Council, unanimously adopted the report of the meeting and the first Executive Council meeting concluded its work.

ANNEX- III



Asian Parliamentary Assembly  
The 10<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session

*“Sustaining Peace and Development in Asia”*

20 -25 November 2017  
Istanbul - TURKEY

**Inaugural Session**

- National Anthem
  - Welcome Address by Hon. Burhan KAYATÜRK, Head of Turkish APA Delegation
  - Address by H. E. Dr. Mohammad Reza Majidi, APA Secretary-General
  - Address by Hon. Dr. NGUON Nhel, APA President
  - Address by Hon. İsmail KAHRAMAN, Speaker of Grand National Assembly of Turkey
- Photo Session



# Asian Parliamentary Assembly The 10<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session

*“Sustaining Peace and Development in Asia”*

21-24 November 2017  
Istanbul, TURKEY

## **Agenda**

1. Adoption of the Agenda of the 10<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session,
2. Election of the Bureau of Plenary,
3. Report of the Chairman of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Executive Council Meeting and handing over the APA Presidency from Cambodia to Turkey,
4. Statement by Honorable Ismail Kahraman, New APA President,
5. Report by Secretary- General of APA on the work of the organization,
6. General Debate: Statements and Presentations by Heads of Delegation on *“Sustaining Peace and Development in Asia”*
7. Meeting of the Standing Committees,
8. Meeting of Drafting Committee on Istanbul Declaration,
9. Adoption of APA Resolutions and Decisions,
10. Adoption of the ISTANBUL Declaration,
11. Presentation and Adoption of the Report of 10<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session,
12. Nomination of the Next President of APA for the period of 2020-2021,
13. Any other matter,
14. Closing.

## ANNEX-IV

### **TEXT OF SPEECH BY HONORABLE BURHAN KAYATURK, HEAD OF APA DELEGATION IN THE GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF TURKEY IN THE 10<sup>TH</sup> APA PLENARY**

Honorable President and Secretary General of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,  
Distinguished Members of the Parliament,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to address such a distinguished audience today in Istanbul, against the beautiful view of Bosphorus, on the occasion of the Tenth Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly.

Taking this opportunity, I would also like to thank Cambodia and our fellow Cambodian parliamentarians for their successful term of APA Presidency.

Turkey has close parliamentary contacts with other countries. Our National Assembly constituted inter-parliamentary friendship groups with many countries and participates actively in the work of international and regional parliamentary unions.

In this respect, we expressed our will to assume the Presidency of APA for the term 2017-2019 and with your strong support here we are, welcoming you in this unique city for what I hope will be a fruitful Session.

Distinguished Members of the Parliament,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you are aware, APA, comprising of 42 member and 16 observer states, gathers parliamentarians from different parts of Asia. This diversity is the richness of this Assembly where each one of us can bring a distinctive contribution.

APA provides a valuable platform to exchange our views, ideas and best practices for developing common strategies in many areas of common interest, like the promotion of peace as well as realization of social, cultural, and environmental rights of the peoples of Asia.

By strengthening political dialogue, fostering economic interdependence and intensifying social and cultural interactions, we can achieve sustainable peace and development in Asia.

With this understanding, we have been working hard to revitalize the ancient Silk Road through various projects, developing regional infrastructure networks and strengthening customs cooperation.

In this respect, Baku-Tbilisi-Kars Railway is recently opened. Thus, uninterrupted railway transport between Beijing and London via Turkey will become possible.

We believe that this will be a significant contribution to increase intra-continental connectivity, speed-up the pace of development and generate wealth in the interests of all countries and peoples of Asia.

Distinguished Members of the Parliament,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Asian continent contains around 45 percent of the world population, as well as 30 percent of the world economy and consequently many countries in the region do have global responsibilities as important actors in international arena.

The promising developments in our continent show that Asia has a huge potential for a prosperous future. If this potential is harnessed fully through appropriate policies and a strategic vision, Asia will certainly play a greater role in the world affairs.

In this regard, APA is an important platform for coordinating and combining our common efforts.

Distinguished Members of the Parliament,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The challenges we face today, both regionally and globally, require us to stand together and continue to find solutions together.

Therefore, I'm confident that as parliamentarians representing our people, we will make use of this opportunity of sharing our views provided by the APA and will speed up our efforts to utilize the potentialities of the region.

Throughout these three days, we will be exchanging views on the theme of "Sustaining Peace and Development in Asia". In this respect, I wish you all a successful meeting with fruitful discussions and I would like to take this occasion to welcome you once again to our country.

ANNEX-V



**Statement of  
H.E. Dr. Mohammad Reza Majidi  
Secretary General of the  
Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) in the  
Inaugural Ceremony of 10<sup>th</sup> Plenary  
Istanbul, Turkey  
22 November 2017**

**Mr. Chairman,  
Excellencies, Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is my pleasure and honor to address you in the 10th Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly being held in the historical and magnificent city of Istanbul.

It is incumbent upon me to express, on behalf of myself, my staff at APA's Permanent Secretariat, and all participating delegations, our sincere and heartfelt gratitude to the Speaker of Grand National Assembly of Turkey, Honorable Ismail Kahraman, and other high ranking officials of the Government and Parliament of the Republic of Turkey who have graciously arranged, and worked hard, for the success of our meeting today and in the few more days to come.

It is an honor and privilege for the APA to have the Turkish parliament as one of its dedicated and internationally well-established members taking over its Presidency for the next two years.

Mr. Chairman,

I am thoroughly confident that through your wisdom, commitment and professionalism, the APA stands to benefit the most. We have come a long way and built on all of the efforts of previous presidencies, especially Cambodia. Turkey is poised to steer APA leadership in such an exemplary manner which will enable us to cross the boundaries of expectations and aspirations of APA community.

We are obliged to extend our full support in any way possible to make this term a success as we did in previous terms.

Mr. Chairman,

I wish to stress that APA's Permanent Secretariat stands committed to the promotion and expansion of the objectives of our organization through full utilization of its human resources as well as its financial and other capabilities and potentials and will do its utmost to make the incoming presidency a success.

I wish you all fruitful and constructive deliberations during APA's 10<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session.

Thank you for your attention.

## ANNEX- VI

### **SPEECH NOTES OF THE SPEAKER OF THE GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF TURKEY AT THE 10<sup>TH</sup> INAUGURAL CEREMONY OF ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (APA)**

**(November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017 – 4:00 p.m.)**

**Distinguished Speakers,  
Distinguished Parliamentarians,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am honored to host you in Istanbul where continents intersect and civilizations live together as we are taking over the next Presidency of Asian Parliamentary Assembly from Cambodia. I would like to welcome you all to our country.

Throughout the Asian Parliamentary Assembly Plenary Session on “Sustaining Peace and Development in Asia,” we will elaborate the subjects “peace” and “development” in depth. In this regard, I sincerely believe that we will exchange ideas effectively thanks to your esteemed contributions during the Plenary Session. In my opinion, these communications are the concrete reflections of the key role of parliamentary diplomacy in regards to foreign policy and international relations.

**Esteemed Speakers and Parliamentarians,**

As you may be aware, our world, including the Asian region, is facing serious challenges, uncertainties and turbulences today. Unfortunately, wars are more destructive and fatal due to the pace and capacity technology brings to us. Intercommunal and intergovernmental rivalry has already dominated all aspects of life. In the past, wars used to take place on open spaces, and the parties were definite; whereas today, the whole world, the whole humanity face the negative impacts of these wars and conflicts away from being a party to it. In this context, it is obvious that any step taken on the way to peace is in direct interest of the whole humanity and the whole world.

Thus, today, we came together for this holy objective. Sustainable peace and development in Asia is vital for all of us.

In Turkey, we attach great importance on sustaining peace, security and stability in all Asian regions, particularly in East Asia. In this regard, as a country who sacrificed martyrs and veterans in the Korean War, we closely follow the developments in the Korean Peninsula. We hope that all countries will avoid any activities that may threaten regional and global peace.

It is to our common benefit that all Asian people live in peace and harmony. Are we doing our best to leave a peaceful and prosperous Asia to future generations? As parliamentarians, as the voice of our people, we have to ask this question to ourselves.

Today, the Palestinian issue remains important and urgent both for the Middle East and the whole world. The only solution for the Palestinian issue is the existence of an independent, sovereign State of Palestine in geographical continuity with a capital in East Jerusalem based on 1967 borders. In this regard, we believe that the national consensus agreement signed by Palestinian brothers and sisters in October will significantly contribute to the peace process. As an international community, our responsibility for the Palestinian is to preserve the vision of two-state solution and to urgently revive the peace process.

### **Distinguished Guests,**

Turkish people and Turkish democracy faced a very severe and murderous coup attempt by Gulenist Terror Organization (FETO) on the night of July 15. Traitor terrorists attempted a coup. They were members of an illegal gang dressed mostly in military uniforms who desire to take hold of democratic institutions and change the democratic order with a military junta regime in Turkey. To reach their aims, they did not shy away from attacking even civilians; they martyred 250 citizens and injured 2,196 others that night.

Since the moment our esteemed President of the Republic of Turkey and esteemed Prime Minister learnt about this coup attempt, they called on Turkish people to hit the streets to protest and restrain this atrocious attempt. As soon as I heard of the incident, I went directly to our Veteran Parliament which is the manifestation of national will and called our members for a meeting to own the will of people they represent. Deputies from all political parties came to stop this coup with a great commitment and faith. All around Turkey, our people stood before the coup plotters and owned the constitutional order, the elected government and democratic functioning.

On the night of July 15, friends of Turkey did not leave Turkey alone. I would like to extend my gratitude to those who offered their sincere support on the phone, who stated that they stood with Turkey, and to Speakers who are present right now.

We believe it is very important to be aware that FETO is a national security threat not only to Turkey but also to 170 countries it is present in. They are applying the tactics they executed in Turkey, in other countries they operate as well. The main strategy of the organization is to leak into governmental bodies, influence the society and to dominate economic resources under the cover of

education, dialogue, tolerance and non-governmental organizations. We would like to hereby call upon all friendly nations of Asia to immediately take the necessary precautions against Gulenist Terror Organization for your own safety and for the future of your countries.

### **Honorable Speakers,**

I believe **peace and development are “twins”**. If you live in peace, then you work and produce in harmony, and increase your welfare.

At the same time, you will reach higher life standards by working harder, producing more, and above all, by contributing to economic added value which will decrease the level of unrest and empower the peace atmosphere. Namely, peace and development are completely related to each other. Peace and development cultivate each other. Considering international relations, international economy and policy, we comprehend better that we shall never underestimate the interconnectedness of peace and development.

This is because peace surges as welfare is shared. When you help your neighbor, you nourish their happiness and peace. This is the same in international relations as well. Thus, Turkey follows **a humanitarian foreign policy and takes initiative in this regard**. Based on a foreign policy driven by initiatives, Turkey takes the necessary steps to prevent regional and global issues and to solve any existing ones. Based on its humanitarian foreign policy approach, Turkey rallies to help the oppressed through developmental and humanitarian assistance; and reaches out people in poverty, conflict and people that experience natural disasters. According to the Global Humanitarian Assistance Report, our country has become the 2<sup>nd</sup> greatest donor country in 2016 with **6 billion U.S. dollars** of humanitarian assistance. In our developmental assistance, we attach particular attention to the Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

In Turkey, we operationalized United Nations Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries, and realized the first of United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in September. Moreover, Turkey is **“the world’s most generous country”** in regards to the proportion of humanitarian assistance to national income. These two basic approaches, namely initiative-driven and humanitarian approaches aim to eliminate global weaknesses and vulnerabilities, and to contribute to global peace and welfare.

For instance, today the number of Syrians escaping from the violence in Syria has exceeded **3.2 million**. In Turkey, we are taking the necessary steps to resolve this crisis in Syria and to open our doors and hearts to those escaping from the tyranny based on this initiative-driven and humanitarian approach. Up to now, Turkey has spent more than **30 billion dollars** both through governmental and non-governmental organizations.

## **Distinguished guests,**

It is a must that we shall take a firm action together to establish sustainable peace and development in Asia. The events taking place in Myanmar affect all of us deeply.

Since the beginning of the crisis, our esteemed President of the Republic of Turkey and his government attached great importance to this issue. We endeavored to take this issue into the agenda of international community. To serve this end, we took the highest possible advantage of all international mechanisms, primarily the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation of which we are Term President. Lastly, an urgent agenda item on Rohingya was approved in the 137<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) held in St. Petersburg between October 14<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> that I participated in. Today, I would like to repeat this humanitarian assistance call in the presence of Asian Parliamentary Assembly.

Although the acts of violence have been decreased in Rakhine State, the humanitarian crisis in the region continues. This crisis has gained a regional and international dimension due to the consequences it bears in regards to Bangladesh. The number of Muslims taking refuge in Bangladesh has reached to **650.000**. The requirement for comprehensive projects to meet the needs of the refugees in Bangladesh is becoming more and more urgent as the number of those taking refuge is increasing very rapidly.

Primarily with the Wife of our esteemed President of the Republic of Turkey, esteemed Deputy Prime Minister, esteemed Minister of Foreign Affairs and esteemed Minister of Family and Social Policies visited Bangladesh and observed the harsh living conditions of the refugees in person.

In Turkey, we act constructively in resolving the issues in Rakhine State. We focus on the humanitarian levels of this issue. We not only endeavor to encourage the international community to find a permanent solution to this issue, but we also make extra effort to keep the channels of communication open with Myanmar Government.

## **Distinguished Speakers and Parliamentarians,**

Turkey is co-president for the “**Mediation for Peace**” initiative that contributes significantly to raising international awareness for preventive diplomacy and

mediation. Lately, Turkey hosted the 4<sup>th</sup> Istanbul Mediation Conference on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017 under the theme “**Surge in Diplomacy, Action for Mediation.**” Today, on November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017, we once again host Mediation Conference in Istanbul in partnership with the Secretariat of Organization of Islamic Cooperation, of which we are currently Term President for the Summit. With member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation as conference participants, we aim to contribute to capacity-building for mediation that are currently underway in the territories of the said member states.

Asia hosts extremely rich cultures and civilizations where different cultures, faiths and belief systems thrive. Actually, our most important richness lies in these differences.

Drawing on these rich qualities, various countries today specialize in various fields. Based on comparative advantage, these countries are able to shape world economy in the areas they thrive in. Economic relations and cooperation between states develop in this way. “**The New Silk Road**” that will join Asia and Europe is another major development I want to emphasize in my opening remarks. Within the framework of “One Belt, One Road Initiative,” the historical Silk Road is being revived. With the said initiative; Asia, currently at the core of political, economic, commercial and cultural interaction between the East and the West, is placed once again at the heart of economic and commercial relations.

Here in Turkey, we support the efforts to establish the Modern Silk Road and take tangible steps in that direction. On October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017, the **Baku-Tbilisi-Kars Railway Project** was opened in the presence of His Excellency, President of Turkey. The said railway is a crucial part of the Modern Silk Road.

Referring to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century as “**The Century of Asia**” is an accurate observation. Sustainable development in Asia is highly significant for the entire world.

I would like to hereby underline the importance of **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals**. These goals provide guidelines for the development of the entire humanity. They consider elimination of poverty the biggest global challenge, while focusing not only on the needs of least developed or developing countries but set out universal goals for all countries, including the developed ones.

Turkey integrates these universal goals in its national development plans and is among countries that play a leading role in this regard.

**Distinguished Speakers, Parliamentarians,  
Esteemed Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As I conclude my speech, I would like to welcome you to our country once again. We will exchange opinions on **“Sustaining Peace and Development in Asia”** throughout this plenary session.

I would like to kindly ask you to discuss, when you go back to your home countries, what other tangible efforts we can make for Sustaining Peace and Development in Asia. Only then we can turn our words into action and take fruitful steps for peace and prosperity in our beautiful continent.

I would like to thank you for your participation.



## ANNEX VII



### Keynote Address

**HON. DR. NGUON NHEL**

**Second Vice-President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of  
Cambodia,  
High Representative of Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei Heng Samrin,  
President of the Cambodian National Assembly and President of the Asian  
Parliamentary Assembly,  
10<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly  
Istanbul, 20-24 November, 2017**

- 
- Honorable Ismail Kahraman, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey,
  - Honorable Heads and Members of Delegations of APA Member Parliaments, Observer Countries and Partner Organizations,
  - Your Excellency Dr. Mohammad Reza Majidi, Secretary General of APA,
  - Distinguished Delegates and Friends
1. It is my great pleasure and privilege to be with all of you at the 10<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) in this beautiful city of Istanbul, which is one the most attracted and popular tourist destination in the world.
  2. On this special occasion, on behalf of **Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei Heng Samrin**, President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia and APA President, I wish to warmly welcome your valuable presence at this session under the theme of “Sustaining Peace and Development” which is a very important topic relevant to the regional and global context. I also wish to express my deep and heartfelt thanks to the Government, people and the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, in particular the Organizing Committee, for their excellent arrangements and hospitality extended to the Cambodian delegation and other delegates since our arrival.

3. As mentioned earlier by His Excellency Secretary General of APA, this plenary is of crucial and historic significance for Turkish Parliament to assume the APA Presidency from the Cambodian Parliament in the coming moments. In this regard, and on behalf of the APA members, I wish to congratulate the Turkish Parliament on its incoming presidency and strongly believe the Turkish Parliament will continue to promote the important role of APA to be more active and effective by injecting new initiatives and vital strategies in order to accelerate the common goals of APA to achieve its common vision of building an Asian Parliament, a regional legislature that truly reflects and represents the common aspirations of and benefits to Asian peoples and the world.
4. It seems that two years have flown very fast and our term as president is now complete. In this short period, we have come together, worked hand in hand and achieved numerous outcomes, addressing potential and key challenges with pride in particular ensuring peace, stability and development for our peoples. All these great achievements can never be done if without your active participation and joint efforts. In this regard, the Cambodian Parliament wishes to thank all APA members and partners as well as the APA Secretary-General and his colleagues for the good cooperation and active support and participation in all activities hosted by the Cambodian Parliament.
5. The 8<sup>th</sup> Plenary in Phnom Penh in 2015 and the 9<sup>th</sup> Plenary in Siem Reap in 2016 achieved great success and fruitful results, as did the Executive Council and Standing Committee meetings, especially the 1<sup>st</sup> Executive Council meeting in Phnom Penh in early October. I wish to highlight several key achievements as follows:
  - The Cambodian Parliament has made its utmost efforts to continue promoting the valuable legacy left by previous APA presidents, including the Islamic Parliament of Iran, the House of Representative of Indonesian, the Pakistan Senate and the Parliament of Syria, in putting enormous effort into supporting cooperation, facilitation, networking and closer integration with the region and world.
  - We have continued to sustain and promote APA work with greater effectiveness and dynamism. In 2000, the Cambodian Parliament

hosted the regional gathering of the Association of Asian Parliaments for Peace before it was transformed into the Asian Parliamentary Assembly in 2006.

- We continued to sustain and promote peace, security, stability and sustainable development, especially to integrate more closely with the region and the world. I wish to advise that Cambodia has sent more than 40,000 personnel on UN peacekeeping missions to many countries around the world since 2006 including Sudan, South Sudan, the Central African Republic, Chad, Syria, Lebanon, Mali and Cyprus.
- We have actively contributed to maintaining, preserving and promoting culture at national, regional and international levels and have prevented the smuggling of cultural items. Cambodia has played an active role in promoting Asian cultural values and became Chairman of the Asian Cultural Council of the International Conference on Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) in July. The tangible and intangible cultural heritage of Cambodia listed by the World Heritage Committee includes the Angkor Wat and Preah Vihear temples as well as the Royal Ballet, Khmer shadow theatre and the *chapey* stringed instrument. An additional source of national pride is that another ancient temple known as Sambor Prei Kuk, the capital of a civilization that flourished in the late 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> centuries, has recently been given world heritage status.
- In addition to resolutions adopted by the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> plenary sessions, we reached consensuses on the Phnom Penh Declaration and the Siem Reap Declaration. Both reflect our strong commitment and joint determination to build a region of peace, security, prosperity and long-lasting development for our Asian peoples.

**Honorable Speakers, my dear friends and colleagues,**

6. I deeply appreciate the Turkish Parliament for its chosen theme for the 10<sup>th</sup> Plenary which is very important and relevant to the regional and global contemporary context as it carries on the initiatives and substantial content and complements previous themes for discussion and exchanges of ideas, experiences and new initiatives in order to seek key strategy to ensure, prevent and maintain peace, security and

safety which are the precondition and indispensable factors for development. Peace and development are truly key factors for all societies at all times and one cannot happen without the other. No country can prosper and develop if it has no peace, or is in a state of war or instability. Obviously, for more than three decades, Cambodia has enjoyed progress and prosperity due to peace, political stability and national unity. Our people from all walks of life live without fear and enjoy full rights, including political, economic and social rights, in accordance with their needs.

7. Once again, on behalf of the Cambodian Parliament and the outgoing president, I wish to thank the Grand National Assembly of Turkey for their excellent arrangements and strongly believe in the next two-year-term presidency, the Turkish Parliament under the wise leadership of Legislative and Executive Branch, especially with the strong support of their people, the Asian Parliamentary Assembly will be even more active, lively and dynamic with new outcomes being achieved.
8. Before concluding my remarks, on behalf of **Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei Heng Samrin**, President of the Cambodian National Assembly and APA President, I wish to thank once again all APA members, the Secretary General and his colleagues, and other partners for their great support, collaboration and valuable contributions to the great successes during Cambodia's Presidency.
9. Last but not least, I wish to extend best wishes to the Turkish Parliament to achieve continued success during its mandate as President. The Cambodian Parliament, other APA members and all partner organizations will continue to support, cooperate and work together to achieve our common goal – to build a region with genuine peace, security, stability and prosperity, a region where no one is left behind. I also wish to convey my best wishes to all Honorable Members, ladies and gentlemen for good health and success in your noble mission to serve your nations and peoples.

Thank you for your kind attention.

## ANNEX- VIII

### **SPEECH NOTES FOR THE SPEAKER OF THE GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF TURKEY ON TURKEY'S TAKEOVER OF APA PRESIDENCY**

**(NOVEMBER 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017 – 9:00 a.m.)**

- **Distinguished Speakers,**
  - **Distinguished Parliamentarians,**
  - **Esteemed Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,**
- Before I begin my remarks, I would like to note that I am glad to be hosting the distinguished members of Asian parliaments in Istanbul who are present here on the occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly. I would like to welcome you all.
- I would like to take the opportunity to extend my deepest gratitude, in your presence, to the Kingdom of Cambodia, President of APA between 2015 and 2017, for their excellent organization of meetings held in the capital Phnom Penh and in Siem Reap, home to the world-famous Angkor Temples; as well as for their warm hospitality to all parliamentary delegations they hosted.
- During Cambodia's APA Presidency, Mr. Speaker Heng Samrin chaired the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Plenary Sessions held in a constructive and result-oriented environment; contributing substantially to the activities of our Assembly throughout the process.
- We would like to hereby extend our gratitude to Dr. Ngoun Nhel, the Second Deputy Speaker of the Cambodian Parliament, who chaired the Organization Committee in a professional and impartial manner, thereby making a significant contribution to the success of the meetings.

## ANNEX- IX



**Statement of  
H.E. Dr. Mohammad Reza Majidi  
Secretary General of the  
Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) in  
APA 10<sup>th</sup> Plenary  
Istanbul, Turkey  
22 November 2017**

Honorable Chairman, Mr. Ismail KAHRAMAN,  
Speaker of Grand National Assembly of Turkey and  
New President of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly

His Excellency Dr. Nguon Nhel,  
Vice-President of the National Assembly of Cambodia and  
Chairman of the 1<sup>st</sup> APA Executive Council

Excellencies, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

At the outset, let me congratulate you Mr. Chairman, for presiding over this important meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> APA Plenary Session in this beautiful and historical city of Istanbul. I am confident that through your strong leadership and wisdom, we will accomplish each and every one of the objectives set for this meeting. I would also wish to register my sincere appreciation for the warm hospitality extended to all of us by the Provisional APA Secretariat in the host parliament of Turkey.

Mr. Chairman,

It is with great pleasure to inform you that as a result of numerous substantive meetings of APA Member Parliaments' delegations, which culminated during Cambodia's presidency, several important resolutions concerning the vital issues pertaining to the Asian community were drafted, tabled and adopted by APA's Standing Committees on Social and Cultural Affairs, Political Affairs, Economic and Sustainable Development Affairs, and Staff and Financial Regulations.

Although these resolutions contain high hopes and aspirations of the

Asian people and we should all do our utmost to uphold and implement them to the highest extent possible, we need, at the same time, to tackle the issue from a different angle as well. There are resolutions which might be called “visionary“ meaning that they represent the common concern or views of APA Member Parliaments. Through these resolutions we have our voice heard by the world community and, at the same time, share their concern among ourselves.

On the other hand, the APA has adopted its resolutions at the highest political level, demanding measures to be carried out, and missions to be tasked and implemented, by the Secretariat as well as the Member Parliaments. These measures and missions have been mainly clustered in the operative parts of our resolutions, calling on the concerned parties to implement them. We need to focus on these ones to witness APA's objectives being materialized as we proceed from one meeting to another.

Now, let me briefly name a few of such operative paragraphs:

1. As far as the Standing Committee on Political Affairs is concerned, we have the following tasks in front of us:
  - a. Consultation and coordination with Asian academic institutions, think-tanks and other similar entities in support and to promote APA's activities;
  - b. Identifying APA Members' priority topics for receiving and offering training courses.
2. With respect to the Standing Committed on Sustainable Development, there are the following missions:
  - a. Linking Asia's energy demands and supplies through the Asian Integrated Energy Market;
  - b. Establishing an Asian Information Center concerning Sustainable Development Goals (or SDGs).
3. The Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs has called on the following:
  - a. Close cooperation with UNESCO, UNAOC and other similar organizations to promote cultural diversity;
  - b. Work with Asian universities to do research on the identification of common cultures in Asia.

Similar items can be found in APA resolutions concerning "measures against corruption", women parliamentarians and so on.

While I would like to draw the full attention of all esteemed delegates present here to properly address the dilemma of focusing more on the implementation of APA resolutions already before us, as opposed to drafting and adopting more resolutions, I venture to state that there are many other

practical and important, pressing issues which we are yet to address such as:

1. Marginalization of people with disabilities in Asia societies;
2. Tourism and the role which Asian parliaments can play to promote this industry;
3. Cooperation among the libraries and documents archives of Asian parliaments;
4. Youth, and prevention of violence, as a threat to the Asian civil societies;
5. Women and Sport in the context of promoting social health in Asia;
6. International Decade for the Rapprochement of Asian Cultures which provides a unique opportunity for Asian integration.

Mr. Chairman,

I tried to provide your Excellency and all honorable participants with a critical, and yet, constructive view of our activities hoping that it would serve as a breeding ground for our future work.

You will excuse me if my presentation was somehow a bit lengthy but I felt obliged to offer my thoughts for the betterment of our nations as a whole.

Thank you for your understanding and patience.

## ANNEX- X

### **THE SPEECH OF MRS. ILKSEN CERITOGU KURT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FROM WOMEN PERSPECTIVE**

**Dear Chair and**

**Dear Colleagues,**

I would like to elaborate the theme of the session “sustainable development in terms of women perspective” as a women parliamentarian of Turkish Parliament.

“More than half a billion women have joined the world’s labor force over the past 30 years, and women now account for more than 40 percent of workers worldwide. Women are more likely than men to work as unpaid family laborers or in the informal sector. Women farmers cultivate smaller plots and less profitable crops than male farmers. And women entrepreneurs operate smaller businesses in less lucrative sectors.

As for rights and voice, almost every country in the world has now ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. Yet, in many countries, women (especially poor women) have less say than men when it comes to decisions and resources in their households. Women are also much more likely to suffer domestic violence—in developing and rich countries. And in all countries, rich and poor alike, fewer women participate in formal politics, especially at higher levels. Gender equality is important in its own right. Development is a process of expanding freedoms equally for all people—male and female (Sen, 2009).”<sup>1</sup>

“Gender equality is rightly seen as crucial to sustainable development, with its own Sustainable Development Goal (Goal 5).

Turkey is committed to the goals of improving the living standards and the rights of women, ensuring their full and equal participation in all spheres of life and strengthening their status in society.

Equality between women and men before the law is one of the basic principles of the Turkish Constitution. The latest Constitutional Amendment which is based on the Referendum dated 12 September 2010 further enhanced

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<sup>1</sup> World Bank,

[http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTGENDER/Resources/womens\\_economic\\_empowerment.pdf](http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTGENDER/Resources/womens_economic_empowerment.pdf)

the legal fundamentals of women's human rights by introducing the concept of "positive discrimination" with regard to so-called "vulnerable groups" like women, children and the disabled.

In addition, the two fundamental laws of the Turkish legal system, namely the Civil Code and the Penal Code were completely revamped and notable achievements were realized in the articles concerning women. Within this reform process, the contribution of non-governmental organizations played an important role.

Established on 24 March 2009 at the Turkish Grand National Assembly, the Commission for Equal Opportunity between Women and Men is currently active and functional. The Commission, whose primary goal is to contribute to the protection and development of women's rights, also monitors developments on this issue at the national and international levels.

As a party to the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) since 1985, Turkey's 7th Periodic State Report was considered by the CEDAW Committee on 13 July 2016.

The Turkish Government also ratified the Optional Protocol to CEDAW in 2002. The ratification of the Optional Protocol constituted an important step as it opens the way for personal application to the Committee on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

UN Women is among the institutions with which Turkey maintains a close cooperation. With the entry into force of the Agreement concerning the Establishment of the UN Women Regional Office in Istanbul, an important step was taken for making Istanbul a regional center for the UN as well as for the rights of women.

**Dear Chair and**

**Dear Colleagues,**

*I would like to point out that empowering women is a pathway for achieving all of the millennium goals."*<sup>2</sup>

Putting earnings in women's hands is the intelligent thing to do to speed up development and the process of overcoming poverty. Women usually reinvest a much higher portion in their families and communities than men, spreading wealth beyond themselves. This could be one reason why countries with greater gender equality tend to have lower poverty rates. For example, studies show that when income is in the hands of the mother, the survival probability of a child

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<sup>2</sup> [http://kungsholmensgymnasium.stockholm.se/sites/default/files/womens\\_empowerment\\_by\\_rania-khiar\\_mohammedsadik\\_and\\_nema\\_abdihakim\\_ali.pdf](http://kungsholmensgymnasium.stockholm.se/sites/default/files/womens_empowerment_by_rania-khiar_mohammedsadik_and_nema_abdihakim_ali.pdf)

increases by about 20 percent in Brazil, and in Kenya, a child will be about 17 percent taller, because mothers will invest more of their income in health and nutrition. In Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, agricultural productivity could be raised by as much as 20 percent by allocating a bigger share of agricultural input to women.

This time of economic crisis poses particular risks for women and girls: When economies start to crumble, women are often the first to suffer. The jobs and incomes lost disproportionately affect women; mothers can no longer find credit through micro-finance institutions and are pushed from the informal sector into subsistence work; girls are more likely to be withdrawn from school to lend a hand at finding more resources for the household; and when families have to tighten their belts, girls are more likely to become malnourished.

The World Bank identified 33 developing countries where women and girls in poor households are particularly vulnerable to the effects of the global economic and food crises. Fifteen of these, mostly in Sub-Saharan Africa, are likely to see a particularly dangerous mix for women and girls, with slowing economic growth, fewer girls in school, and higher levels of infant and child mortality. I would like to emphasize that women in developing countries are not only vulnerable or victims: if provided opportunity, they can be important agents of change and recovery.”<sup>3</sup>

**Dear Chair and,**

**Dear Colleagues,**

I would like to take your attention to the social policies applied in some developing countries including my own as well ,As you very well know, social policy is the science of peace, stability and harmony in general aiming to ensure social justice foreseeing policies and measures to eradicate the reasons of class wars or class distinctions within the society. I think this definition is the starting point of my efforts as a woman parliamentarian. Social policies are a kind of cautions providing welfare, peace, justice and fair income distribution for potential risk groups in the society.

My field of study has been composing of women who consist of highly vulnerable segment of the societies. I do firmly believe that strengthening the women has paramount importance for the development of next generations.

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<sup>3</sup> World Bank,

[http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTGENDER/Resources/womens\\_economic\\_empowerment.pdf](http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTGENDER/Resources/womens_economic_empowerment.pdf)

Therefore, my first objective is to support the woman entrepreneurs to stand on their own feet.

The women being considered as a potential risk group in social policy field are guaranteed by Turkish Constitution taking the positive discrimination into account. Widows and orphans pension which is regulated by law sets a remarkable example in my home country.

Furthermore, women should be encouraged by law to set up their own business. Recently, in my country there are some good practices for providing financial support to women in the fields of agriculture and small and medium size enterprises through several government agencies. In my own constituency, I have taken the initiative to establish the producer cooperatives creating the business area for rural women to receive a recompense of their work and to take their place in the business world producing poultry products, and local flavors, handling bee keeping, dealing with boutique hotel administration and so on. We are going on our efforts for the marketing of the products produced by these cooperatives of women through several channels. They have had the opportunity to use a free virtual trade platform called PTT AVM for introducing and selling out their products to the world. PTT is a state owned institution accepting such an initiative with pleasure to support the women entrepreneurs. In the same way, we are in close contact with the representatives of the store chains for both marketing the products and producing a brand.

Amid all these efforts what made me affect so much is a discourse of women saying that “now I am able to give pocket money to my kids”. In terms of the communication and interaction within the family it will cause significantly positive results for a women enjoying financial freedom.

Consequently I would like to underscore that poor rural women will gain a highly significant perspective and a broad experience in terms of business world through such kind of social projects. Within this mind, I do think that such kind of initiatives of parliamentarians will further contribute to first the development of the women and then the country as well as to the sustainable development goals.

Thank you for your attention!!!

## ANNEX-XI



### **THE SECOND EURASIAN WOMEN'S FORUM**

On the 20-21<sup>st</sup> of September, 2018, the Council of Federation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation and the Interparliamentary Assembly of States - participants of the Commonwealth of Independent States will held the Second Eurasian Women's Forum in St. Petersburg.

The First Eurasian Women's Forum was carried out in 2015 and it has become a new international discussion platform for cooperation, discussion on the role and contribution of women in the modern world. The Forum has demonstrated the women's urge for consolidation in pursuit to address current socio-economic and humanitarian issues, to strengthen peace and security. More than 1,000 participants from 80 countries unanimously supported the idea of holding the Forum on regular basis.

The Outcome Resolution of the First Eurasian Women's Forum was sent to the leaders of 166 countries and 24 international organizations.

The Second Eurasian Women's Forum, maintaining continuity, will allow to expand the women's agenda and to create a basis for new projects.

The purposes of the Second Eurasian Women's Forum are: strengthening of international cooperation, establishment of partnerships and the development of communications for the new solutions, models of widening opportunities for women and enhancing their role in achieving global sustainable development agenda.

The Second Eurasian Women's Forum will bring together women parliamentarians, representatives of executive authorities, international organizations, business sector, scientific community, public entities and charity projects, prominent persons of the international women's movement worldwide.

The program of the Second Eurasian Women's Forum meets the current international agenda and the UN General Assembly Resolution No. 70/1 "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" adopted on September 25, 2015.

The Forum will address the issues of empowerment and the role of women in politics, digital economy, innovative development of social sphere, environmental security, international cooperation, promotion of charity and humanitarian projects.

The central themes of the Forum:

- Women in strengthening peace and security;
- Women's leadership in the global economy. Strengthening the role of women for sustainable economic development;
- Women in the development of the social priorities of the society;
- Women's entrepreneurship as a driver of innovation and growth;
- Women for the energy of future: preserving the planet for future generations;
- Women in shaping the global health strategy;
- Opportunities for women in the era of digitalization: from digital divide to digital dividends.

Reputable experts and speakers will provide a high level of discussion, new progressive ideas for implementation and development.

Program of activities of the Forum includes plenary sessions, panel sessions, and expert discussion platforms, public-private and business dialogues, foresight sessions, motivational workshops of opinion leaders, theme seminars and open presentations of studies and reports of international organizations.

Panel session organized by the international organizations - the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) are scheduled to find out most effective solutions, to circulate the best practices.

In addition to the official events, participants will have the opportunity to join the activities of cultural and humanitarian exchange.

In its good tradition, the Eurasian Women's Forum's "Public recognition" award ceremony will be held to celebrate the outstanding women for their achievements in various fields of activities and contribution to the sustainable development of society.

Further information about the Forum will be posted on the "Eurasian women's community" information portal at [www.eawfpress.ru](http://www.eawfpress.ru).

## ANNEX-XII

United Arab Emirates  
Federal National Council



الإمارات العربية المتحدة  
المجلس الوطني الاتحادي



**Intervention Paper**  
**about the subject of**  
***"Woman in the United Arab Emirates"***

*Submitted to the:*

**Asian Parliamentary Assembly**

**21-25 November 2017**

**Istanbul - Turkey**

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The United Arab Emirates pays great attention to the realization of gender equality and woman empowerment in all the domains. At the World Government Summit of 2017, *His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Dubai*, declared that women's representation in the Cabinet will reach (50 %) in the near future. Moreover, the women's political participation during the past ten years has witnessed unprecedented growth in both political decision making in the State and active participation in balanced and comprehensive development. The new formation of the Federal Government of the United Arab Emirates has witnessed in October 2017 the biggest structural changes in its history. The new Government has included nine female ministers, forming thereby (28 %) of the Government, and this is of the highest rates in the region and in the world, most of them are State Ministers except for Her Excellency **Noura Al Kaabi Minister of Culture and Community**

**Development, and Her Excellency Hessa bint Essa Bhumaid Minister of Development,** the thing which reflects the position that the woman has reached up to the highest positions, the most recent of which has been holding the position of the President of the National Council - Parliament - in November 2015, thus she became the first woman to preside a parliamentary institution at the Gulf and Arab level.

Furthermore, the Emirati woman occupies diplomatic positions at Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. The number of the Emirati women in the diplomatic and consular corps at the Ministry's headquarters has amounted to (175), in addition to (42) women working in the diplomatic corps in the external missions of the Emirates. There are at present (4) ambassadors in the diplomatic corps at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The Emirate Gender Balance Council was established to reduce the gap between the two genders in the work in all the sectors of the State, and to achieve gender balance in the decision making centers. This emphasizes the importance of

woman's role in policy making, not just in its implementation. Women in the United Arab Emirates contribute at present with more than (46 %) of the workforce therein, while it was no more than (6.2 %) in the early eighties of the twentieth century (1980s). According to the Report of the World Economic Forum of 2016 to bridge the gap between the two genders, the United Arab Emirates ranked the first in the Literacy Substandard and the first rank in the Secondary Education Substandard and the first rank in the Substandard of Sex Ratio at Birth (female / male). According to a report published by Gulf News in October 2015, women occupy (66 %) of the jobs in the Government Sector, and this is of the highest rates all over the world, out of which the women occupy (30 %) of senior leadership positions related to decision making. The Emirati women also participate in various roles in the Private Sector, including the positions of managers and project entrepreneurs. According to another report published by Emirates News Agency in November 2015, there are (21,000) businesswomen in the United Arab Emirates. The Businesswoman Sector forms (10 %) of the total Emirates Private Sector. The Businesswomen manage projects whose values exceed AED (40) billions, and they represent (15 %) of the board of directors in chambers of commerce and industry in the United Arab Emirates.

**Thank you for your good listening.**

**\*\*\*\*\* End \*\*\*\*\***

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## ANNEX-XIII

### Speech

**Delivered by Hon. Mrs. Suwannee SIRIVEJCHAPUN  
Member of the Thai National Legislative Assembly  
at the meeting of APA Women Parliamentarians  
on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2017  
Istanbul, Republic of Turkey**

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**Madam Chair,  
Secretary-General of the APA  
Distinguishes Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

For Thailand we don't have any specific statement for this woman forum but I just would like to take this opportunity to share information of Thailand on women development. Thailand has already promulgated Gender Equality Act. Under this Act, there is a mechanism for anyone who has been discriminated because of gender to submit a complaint to the authority. As to this meeting, I would express our support from all proposals of Russia, Turkey, Indonesia and UAE.

- One point that I would like to emphasize is in one of Social and Cultural Affairs of the APA Meeting, we have already adopted the resolution that at least one delegate from each APA Member to attend the meeting have to be women. I would like to ask the Secretary-General of the APA to make this really happen.

- As to the Women Parliamentarians to segregate as one of Standing Committee of the APA, I would like to support this proposal because this is in line with AIPA and IPU.

- Last but not least I emphasize that we cannot exclude men from women parliamentarians really because there are a lot of things that men and women have to work together to solve the issues. By working together it will make the solving

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of any issue more effective. And I would ask all of us here to give applaud to all men in this meeting because you are really **“HeForShe”**.

Thank you for your kind attention.

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**Speech**  
**Delivered by Hon. Mrs. Suwannee SIRIVEJCHAPUN**  
**Member of the Thai National Legislative Assembly**  
**Delegation**  
**at Asian Parliamentary Assembly**  
**Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs**  
**on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2017**  
**Istanbul, Republic of Turkey**

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**Madam Chair,**  
**Distinguishes Delegates,**  
**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

On behalf of the Thai National Legislative Assembly Delegation, it is my great honor to be here among my dear colleagues, the APA delegations of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs. I would like to extend my appreciation to His Excellency İsmail KAHRAMAN, Speaker of the National Assembly of Turkey and President of APA, for his remarkable role as the Chairperson of the 10<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session and honorable Dr. Mohammad Reza Majidi, APA Secretary General including his effective staff for the preparation of study report on the social and cultural issues which helps conceptualize us on the substances concerned.

Let me introduce one of the Thai National Legislative Assembly actions to deal with the educational inequity opportunity that is the implement of National Education Act, Child and Youth Development Promotion Act and Education Provision for Persons with Disabilities Act. All mentioned laws aim to increase efficiency and alternatives, and expand access to education services of Thai people.

For culture and society, Thailand has preserved its unique identity and traditions over the centuries, while also welcoming diverse cultures reaching its shores as the Kingdom increased its contacts with the outside world. Thai people are well-known for their friendliness, generosity and tolerance, regardless of gender, race and faith.

Additionally, culture, arts and religions have been upheld on the basis of freedom and integration. This has allowed the country to remain open to the outside world, ready to adopt innovations that benefit society. Culture is recognised as an important element of the Kingdom's social fabric and its dynamic economy, enabling all citizens to uphold their virtues, to live together peacefully and to continually adapt to change. Again, the Royal Thai Government respects fundamental freedoms and basic human rights. This reflects in the current Constitution of Thailand, which protects all human dignity, rights, liberties and equality of the people under Constitutional Monarchy.

**Dear Madam Chair/ and Colleagues**

I believe that all APA members support the principle of “we will leave no one behind,” therefore, with the spirit of the mentioned principle and the cooperation between our parliaments, governments and APA members, this will help to lead us to be in the better world.

Thank you for your kind attention.

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## ANNEX-XIV

Text of Speech by Mr. Lokman Iyva

Ladies and gentlemen

Honorable members of Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs

Distinguished guest

I am very honored to be here and given a chance to speak here.

I am aware that the chance not for my own self, the chance is for all people with disabilities in Asia. I am very thankful for this incredibly valuable chance.

Everybody knows all people in the world are physically, mentally, emotionally different from each other. It means that all people are not the same naturally. However some of the people are excluded, discriminated or humiliated because of physical, mental or emotional disability.

We believe that all persons with or without illnesses and disabilities are equally valuable, important, honorable. All of us are different in a way and none of our differences can be a reason for exclusion, discrimination or indignity.

People with ~~and without~~ illnesses and disabilities have to overcome not only the physical and social barriers, but also the prejudices in the minds of other members of the society. The barriers and prejudices intimidate them to an extent that they are prohibited from realizing their potential and from actually participating in education, business lives, social and cultural activities. It is essential to lift technical, legal, social and cultural barriers preventing some members of the society from participation.

Education systems of member states should include not only persons with illnesses and disabilities but also with multi-disabilities. Careers of students with illnesses and disabilities should be planned and encouraged throughout their education.

Affirmative action should be considered for employment of people with illnesses and disabilities and also all other disadvantaged groups until all the barriers are lifted.

Research and development on the use of technology for the self-care of the people with illnesses and disabilities should be increased as well as R&D for the use of technology for care of people with Alzheimer's.

All places, products and services should be available and accessible for all people, including people with illnesses and disabilities, without any additional

payment to use assistive devices. All member states of APA should collaborate in R&D of assistive devices, software, hardware, technical methods and share their information and experiences.

I believe that The Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs will make a decision on all Asian with disabilities and convince all members of APA.

Ladies and gentlemen; I am very thankful for this chance as an Asian with disability. I am honored to be given chance to speak.

## ANNEX-XV

**10th APA PLENARY**  
**20 – 25 November 2017**  
**Meeting of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs**  
**Wednesday, 22 November 2017**  
**Intervention by Mr. Christakis Tziovanis, MP,**  
**Member of Cyprus APA delegation**

The cultural diversity of Asia is one of its most dynamic and vibrant features that we must all strive to safeguard. In this regard, the APA works as an invaluable platform through which we may coordinate our efforts for the protection of the rich and diverse heritage of Asia. As parliamentarians, we have both the means and the power to achieve this. A first concrete step is to ensure that all APA member parliaments have ratified the fundamental international treaties on the issue.

We may then proceed to identify areas of particular concern to us that may require further regulation, through bilateral or multilateral agreements or the drafting of common legislation, on the basis of an agreed framework.

Cyprus is a country that shows great sensitivity on this issue, as it has suffered itself from the illicit plundering of its cultural and religious heritage. As a member of the Council of Europe, the Republic of Cyprus is one of the first signatories of the Convention on offences relating to Cultural Property and has been instrumental in promoting the Convention during its Chairmanship of the Council.

This Convention is the only international treaty that deals specifically with the criminalisation of the illicit trafficking of cultural property, establishing a number of criminal offences, including the falsification of documents and the intentional destruction or damage to cultural property. It is thus an invaluable tool both in the fight against organised illicit trafficking of antiquities and artefacts as well as in the fight against terrorism - fuelled destruction or damage of heritage that in our view should be ratified by every APA member.

Finally, as parliamentarians we have an important role to play in raising awareness about the diverse cultural heritage of Asia and the perils that this heritage faces. In this respect, the proposed establishment by the APA of an award presented annually to exceptional artists of Asia, is an initiative that will showcase our commitment to cultural diversity as well as, enhance visibility throughout Asia for the APA's work in this field.

## ANNEX-XVI

### **The Report of SCCAP Sub-regional Groups' meetings**

The Standing Committee on Political Affairs in Islamabad in 2017 proposed the establishment of six sub-regional groups in order to discuss the important issue of Asian Parliament. These groups held their meetings in Manama and Abu-Dhabi and the outcome is as follows:

- The model for Asian Parliament which was proposed is a forum, like Council of Europe, and not Parliament of Europe. The representatives of Council of Europe are the same members of their parliaments but the decisions are advisory and not executive or compulsory. The benefit of such model is being a platform for raising the political differences between the AP members. The Secretariat should mention here that the Charter of APA believes this item, means prohibition of raising the bilateral differences, guarantees the solidarity and harmony between APA Members.
- Some delegations believed that if the above model is going to have forum characteristic, then what is the advantage of this new Asian Parliament with respect to Asian Parliamentary Assembly or other regional organizations in Asia like ECO, SARC, ASEAN, Indian Ocean Association and . . . ? Are they not so productive that we need to create AP? What would be the guarantee for the productivity of AP versus APA?
- Some others believed that we need enough time to think and consult about having a common Asian Parliament, its budget and its authority & responsibility.
- The Representatives of South East Asia & Chinese Parliaments expressed that they are not against the idea of AP but any positive signal for AP by their Speakers of Parliaments is possible when their States or Governments show their agreements with the idea in advance. So, the idea should be well developed in the Political Standing Committee then through a plenary decision and APA secretariat's correspondence, the views of the States or Governments for further follow up could be asked;
- Member Parliament of India welcomed the idea of creation of Asian Parliament but asked for more respect to the contents of APA Charter and its Rules of Procedure. He underlined the necessity of the consideration of all important political, cultural and social factors in creation of Asian Parliament;

- The discussions on Asian Parliament in Arab group addressed the criteria to be met in the election of AP Secretary-General, the manner of his nomination and term of his mandate, the conditions for nomination, the required competencies and the grounds for dismissal of the AP Secretary-General;
- This meeting discussed the manner of creation of the Asian Parliament, considering that there is no executive authority corresponding to the Asian Parliament, and what would become of the recommendations approved by the Asian Parliament;
- The Arab Group believes that we should provide legal basis for the transition from the Asian Parliamentary Assembly to an Asian Parliament or Union; and we should make a comparison between the Charter of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly and the proposals made on the Statute of the Asian Parliament, and whether there are provisions in the APA Charter that need to be amended to correspond to the aspirations for the establishment of an Asian Parliament;
- The Chairperson of meeting confirmed that there are a lot of obstacles in the way to create an Asian Parliament but we need to discuss our common issues and benefit from the experiences of other continents.

**APA Secretariat Analysis:**

- 1) There is a wide diversity in the views of the APA Member Parliaments with respect to the idea of Asian Parliament. Some Arab Parliaments went into dept of the idea and proposed statue for the new organization but majority looked at it as a vague and immature idea which needs more deliberation and consultation;
- 2) The model which is proposed for Asian Parliament is like a forum with advisory decision characteristic which the same as in APA is. APA is a forum in Asia for consultation, cooperation and coordination on the regional as well as global issues and intends, through legislation, having effect on the policies and development of the countries of Member Parliaments;
- 3) Dividing SCCAP into 6 groups caused lack of flow of information and views between 6 groups. Five groups plus Iraq and Syria were not involved in what Arab group discussed;

- 4) South East Asia group and China requested the permission of their States or Governments prior to any agreement on Asian Parliament;
- 5) Sub-Regional groups have expressed all their views and nothing left to be discussed. There was repetition of views in the second meeting.

**Proposal:**

- 1) There should be one meeting in the context of SCCAP under supervision of the Political Standing Committee instead of 6 Sub-Regional groups to get benefit of the flow of the views and information among all APA Member Parliaments;
- 2) As proposed in the Sub-Regional groups, if the model is a forum and has advisory characteristic why should we transfer APA to AP with the same function when the existing organization, APA, has the same characteristic and mandate?
- 3) The model for Asian Parliament should be specified and proposed equally to all APA Member Parliaments. We should pay attention to the ultimate goal of APA which has legislative mandate and function in the context of Asian Parliament;
- 4) Whenever the model for Asian Parliament is finalized and majority support it as a whole plan, then for respecting the legal basis, APA secretariat should communicate with all APA Member Parliaments and gets officially their views.



## **Report of Special Committee for Creation of Asian Parliament**



The 7<sup>th</sup> APA Plenary held in Lahore in 2014, approved the establishment of “Special Committee on Creation of an Asian Parliament (SCCAP)”. During the SCCAP meeting on the sidelines of 9<sup>th</sup> Plenary in December 2016 most participating delegations expressed their support for the idea of Asian Parliament given the great potentials that existed in Asia. But it was also expressed that it was a long-term project and will need acceptance by the APA Governments.

2. On 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 Pakistan, being the Vice President of APA Standing Committee on Political Affairs, hosted the first meeting of SCCAP and the Standing Committee on Political Affairs on 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 in Islamabad. During the SCCAP Meeting the delegates deliberated upon different aspects of Asian Parliament and agreed to form six sub-regional groups to assist SCCAP in its functioning. The SCCAP meeting also discussed a draft resolution “Towards an Asian Parliament” which was subsequently added to the draft resolutions of APA SC on Political Affairs, the next day. The meetings of six sub-regional groups were also on the Agenda, however on the request of Members, the meeting was deferred to be held on the sidelines of next SC meeting in Bahrain.

3. The first meeting of APA Sub-regional Groups was held on the sidelines of APA Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development Affairs held in Bahrain on 26 April 2017. This was a remarkable progress since the creation of the SCCAP. Similarly, the second meeting of Sub-regional Groups was convened on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2017 on the sidelines of the meeting of APA Standing Committee on Staff and Financial Regulations held in Abu Dhabi. The Senate of Pakistan is highly appreciative of the Council of Representatives of Bahrain and the Federal National Council of UAE and the APA Secretariat for assisting SCCAP in convening these meetings.

### **Analysis and Way Forward**

4. The *Draft Resolution on Asian Parliaments and Governments Together for Prosperity in Asia*” which has been on the agenda of APA Standing committee on Political Affairs clearly states;

**3. “Encourage Member Parliaments to seek the views of their respective Governments on the subject of Asian Parliament and to contribute to the work of the APA Special Committee on the Creation of Asian Parliament (SCCAP) by providing their point of views and analysis of the subject matter”**

5. This para clearly obligates the Members to seek input from their executives on the prospects of Asian Parliament and report them to the SCCAP. In this regard, APA Member Parliaments are requested to send communications to the APA Secretariat for SCCAP after

incorporating their government's point of views on Asian Parliament. This feedback shall be required to form new guidelines for the creation of the Asian Parliament.

6. The Senate of Pakistan unanimously passed a 'Special Resolution for the establishment of Asian Parliament' on 10th March, 2015 and, being then APA President, also urged APA Member States to adopt similar resolutions in their respective Parliaments. Such resolutions and similar parliamentary tools are vital for building consensus and legitimacy of proposed Asian Parliament. Members must take steps for the adoption of such like resolutions and share the progress with SCCAP.

7. The Senate of Pakistan in SCCAP Report, presented at 9<sup>th</sup> APA Plenary, proposed that the structure of the proposed Asian Parliament should have an Executive Committee, as in the case of IPU- the largest and oldest parliamentary forum. The Asian Parliament Executive Committee may include two representatives from each Sub-Regional Group. The Executive Committee shall overlook the administration of Asian Parliament from agenda setting to budget making, and shall make recommendations to Asian Parliament on various matters, including the matters of Membership of national parliaments and regional Parliamentary Assemblies. Views and feedback on proposed structure of Asian Parliament need to be discussed further and input of APA Members that are also members of various regional Parliamentary Assemblies are encouraged.

8. Smooth functioning of an organization can only be achieved with provision of sufficient funds. Currently, APA Standing Committee on Staff and Financial Regulations is considering various modes for contribution by APA Parliaments as annual subscription. Similar, financial contributions for the Asian Parliament can be considered by SCCAP meetings to facilitate active deliberations on financial matters of the proposed Asian Parliament.

9. It is crucial to bring forth the level and frequency of participation of APA Parliaments at the events of APA. In last four Plenaries the representation of Member Parliaments was around 59 percent and for Standing Committee Meetings attendance during the last two years was around 43 percent on average. This situation impedes the reforms process for Asian Parliament as almost 40 percent of the APA Membership is not present even at Plenary Sessions. During 2018, the Senate of Pakistan shall once again try to approach all 42 Member Parliaments to give their substantive input and share their experiences at various other parliamentary fora to assist SCCAP in its mandate to develop a consensus based roadmap to achieve creation of Asian Parliament.

10. The APA Member Parliaments are also encouraged to send their detailed input on this Report as well as the document prepared in 2014 titled "Foundations of an Asian Parliament" by the APA Secretariat.

\*\*\*\*

November 2017

## ANNEX-XVII

**10<sup>th</sup> APA PLENARY**  
**20 – 25 November 2017**

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**Meeting of the Standing Committee on Economic & Sustainable Development**

**Thursday, 23 November 2017**

**Introductory Remarks by Mr. Nicos Tornaritis, MP**

**APA Vice-President, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Economic & Sustainable Development, Head of the Cyprus APA delegation.**

Assuming the Presidency of the APA Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development to Cyprus, is indeed a great honour for me and my country. I can assure you that I shall work dedicatedly to uphold the objectives of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, that is to foster cooperation and coordination among parliaments and parliamentarians in Asia for the promotion of peace, prosperity and respect for human rights and humanitarian principles. I look forward, to working with all of you counting on your cooperation and support, in matters of mutual interest.

Cyprus, attaches great importance to its energy potential. The discovery of hydrocarbons in Cyprus' Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) has created new and exciting prospects for Cyprus to become an energy hub in the Eastern Mediterranean. Prospects in the energy sector are all the more promising thanks to the island's geostrategic location, connecting Europe with markets in the Middle East and Asia and its role as a pole of stability and security in the region of the Eastern Mediterranean. As far as energy from renewable sources is concerned, the energy policy of Cyprus is harmonized with the UN and EU goal of working towards the reduction of global warming and climate change phenomena. Cyprus ranks first in the world in solar energy use for water heating in households, and has achieved significant progress in the production of energy from Renewable Energy Sources (RES), which amounts to about 8.7% of its total electricity generation. By 2020, 13% of the island's energy is expected to be generated from Renewable Energy Sources.

I assure you, as the Chairman of this Committee and Vice –President of the Assembly, that I will work to the best of my ability to promote further collaboration between APA member parliaments, not the least so through the implementation of resolutions that aim directly at improving the quality of life of all citizens of Asia.

The topics that fall within the mandate of the Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development should be at the forefront of these efforts. Through this platform we can coordinate our efforts in promoting economic growth, confronting poverty, promoting the sustainable use of energy and in linking our energy policies with the global Sustainable Development Goals and the UN Framework Convention for Climate Change. Furthermore, the transfer of knowhow and expertise on environmental issues among us, should be enhanced, with a particular focus on the work of educational and research institutions as well as civil society actors.

This cooperation can be particularly valuable in issues that directly affect the quality of life of our citizens, such as ensuring safe drinking water and sanitation, as well as the sound management of water resources. Sustainable and climate resilient agriculture is another key field which can benefit from a constructive exchange of expertise between us, as it is a precondition for achieving food security and thus reduce inequality and poverty.

Before delving into a detailed discussion of each resolution, I feel the need to underline once again the importance of following up on our work, by informing our respective governments about the resolutions we adopt at parliamentary level and by monitoring the implementation of government policies so as to ensure that they promote the element of sustainability.

/LM/

## ANNEX-XVIII

**Statement by the Member of the Iranian parliament  
before the Energy Advisory Group Meeting  
Asian Parliamentary Assembly  
on "Renewable Energy"  
Istanbul, 23 November 2017**

*In the name of God, the Compassionate the Merciful*

**Mr. Chairman,**

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

My delegation is very pleased to have the opportunity to attend this Meeting and to engage a fruitful and constructive dialogue with our partners regarding the important issue of renewable energy. *and relevant resolutions*

As you're well aware, access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all, is one of the most important goals in achieving sustainable development. To achieve this goal, the Islamic republic of Iran has paid particular attention to the promotion of sustainable and modern energy as a core issue in its Sixth National Development Plan. Although the main source of energy in Iran is fossil fuels, namely oil and gas and nearly 11% of global oil reserves and 16% of global gas reserves are attributed to Iran, there is enormous potential for developing renewable energy sources in the country with the aim to meet part of its growing energy needs in the coming decade.

Having said that and in pursuit of building the required capacity in renewable energy sector, Iran is seriously looking at a full fledged participation and engagement of private sector in this field. Hence, the parliament and government have tried to facilitate and boost the private sector engagement in the country's energy market. Accordingly, in the sixth National Development Plan of the Islamic republic of Iran, the share of renewable and clean energy power plants, with the priority of non-governmental sector investment

(domestic and foreign), has been increased. Provision of various financial and non financial incentives to private sector is the other instrument to increase their share in renewable energy production capacity in the country. Allocation of tax exemption between 5 to 13 years as well as provision for guarantee for purchasing the electricity generated by the private renewable energy producers for a fixed period of time are among the other examples of such supports and facilities.

**Dear Colleagues**

Promoting and raising public awareness in terms of environmental and economic benefits of utilizing more renewable sources of energy and the vital role of private sector in this respect is another aspect, which Iran's National Development Plan has carefully looked at. In fact, Iran's national efforts to achieve progress and sustainable development is deeply rooted in its national needs and priorities supported by and in conformity with its national agenda, policy and legislations. Iran is also confident that through a genuine partnership and cooperation with other countries, the struggle to access affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all can yield in tangible results. In this regard, the APA is an important forum for promoting inter- parliamentary cooperation, could, through sharing the experiences of member parliaments, pave the way for utilizing new and renewable energies.

Thank you for your attention and I hope we, as parliamentarians, can take a serious step towards this goal.

## ANNEX-XIX

Mr. President,

The DPRK would like to take note of the 19th article of this draft resolution which mentioned a very strong concern about the use of sanctions or any mechanisms of financial and economic pressure on APA Member States applied for political purposes.

We condemn in the strongest terms all kinds of unjust sanctions and blockade against Iran, Syria, Palestine, and other member states imposed by the US, the Westerners and Israel.

The vicious anti-DPRK sanctions imposed <sup>by</sup> the US and its vassal forces can be described as a mega-type crime against humanity which aims to totally deprive the DPRK of its rights to existence and development.

Due to the sanctions, non-governmental exchanges and humanitarian assistance have been blocked by all sides to say nothing of trade and financial transactions with other countries, resulting in a tremendous damage in the protection of rights of women and children as well as in the development of civil economy for people's livelihood.

This is clearly an act of human rights violation which totally

negates and wantonly infringes upon people's rights to sufficient level of welfare necessary for health and wellbeing such as food, clothing, housing, medical care and social service stipulated in the World Human Rights Declaration.

It reveals that the aim of sanctions is not in checking the development of weapons as alleged by the hostile forces, but in intentionally creating humanitarian disasters by isolating and stifling the DPRK for the evil purpose of overthrowing its social system.

We call upon the Asian countries that treasure justice and conscience to strongly denounce and resolutely reject the savage sanctions imposed by the US and its followers for the evil purpose of completely obliterating our State and people.

The Korean people will resolutely frustrate the last-ditch maneuvers of the hostile forces to stifle the DPRK on the strength of self-development principle and science.

As for the damage inflicted by the sanctions, we will count the cost to the last penny and they shall have to pay dearly.

Thank you.

## ANNEX-XX



### **Report of the Advisory Group on Energy (Second Meeting)**

**Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia**

**2 Oct. 2017**

- 1- The second meeting of the Advisory Group on Energy took place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October 2017, on the sidelines of the First Executive Council. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Khalil Abdullah Abul – Kuwait – and was attended by the delegates of following countries (Kuwait- The Republic of Iraq- Syria- Iran- Pakistan- Russia- Afghanistan- Cyprus- Turkey- India- Thailand).
- 2- Deputy Secretary-General Dr. Ali Khoram, said that the Russian Federation could present to the Group the means of exchanging energy resources among us as an Asian continent. Due to the experience of the Russian Federation in this field, we ask the Russian delegation for models and studies on alternative energy in Asia. The Secretary General asked the participating delegations to provide their active participation in the Group.
- 3- The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan: Supports the draft resolution submitted by the State of Kuwait on green energy in Asia.
- 4- Chairman of the Group: We aim to reach a common Asian market for natural resources and cooperate in this field.
- 5- India: The Indian delegation thanked the State of Kuwait for heading the Group and expressed support for the draft resolution presented by the State of Kuwait (green energy in Asia). He also stressed on the importance of this Group and the participation in it.

On the other hand, he mentioned that the Indian government and in particular the Prime Minister, are interested in alternative energy. He noted that India was working on a project to discover alternative and clean energy resources that includes seven countries including (Cambodia-Poland). The Indian Government is willing to present the project to the APA Advisory Group on energy.

6- Iran: We can try the alternative energy because it is the future of the economic world. We in the Islamic Republic of Iran have started to pay attention to the solar energy and we consider it the world's cleanest and least polluted alternative energy.

7- Chairman of the Group: We welcome the efforts of the Indian Government and we would like to examine the documents of this initiative to study and discuss the issue at the next meeting. We pledge to hold a special meeting on this initiative to adopt the issue in this Group. We welcome scientific presentations and initiatives on the energy market in Asia by other members of the Group.

8- Turkey: We thank the State of Kuwait for heading the Group on Energy and we emphasize that Asia is one of the most important continents in the world of energy resources, especially oil and gas in the Middle East. We all in Asia should work to reduce the pollution of our countries. The representative from Turkey also proposed a new resolution on reducing pollution in Asia and another resolution on clean alternative energy.

9- Cyprus: We urge countries in Asian to work toward a cleaner environment (hydrocarbon energy). We in the Republic of Cyprus are one of the most leading countries in Asia using marine energy and we are preparing a renewable marine energy project because it is the future of a Cyprus economy.

10- Chairman of the Group: Kuwait's budget is reliant on petroleum, while our production is 3 million barrels a day, we are still working diligently to secure a renewable source of energy to reduce dependency on oil due to the fact that fossil fuels are not profitable in the long haul, and because renewable energy is the future of the world's economy.

11- Deputy Secretary General: The Republic of India's substantial achievements in solar energy is to be commended. we ask India's representative to produce a special draft resolution on solar energy so we may benefit from their experiences to offer better service for the Asian household. We also encourage the State of Kuwait to provide greater collaboration with Asian countries in the field of traditional energy as it will help in the near future of Asia.

12- Chairman of the Group: We ask the Republic of Turkey to prepare a draft resolution on clean energy for factories, buildings making it a mandatory prerequisite for construction under the environmental safety building requirements. We also support that this Group to become a permanent. We welcome both the Republic of India and the Kingdom of Thailand in joining this Group and we recommend that India becomes the chair due to its vast experience in the field of alternative energy.

13- The Republic of India: We welcome the suggestion of the chairman, and we are ready to head this Group pending our government's approval.

14- The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan: We in the Middle East have 300 days of sunny weather, we have to utilize that natural energy in producing energy, and I support the chairman's suggestion to make this Group permanent to deal with renewable energy (Wind, Solar, Waste, etc.)

15- Islamic Republic of Iran: We support the suggestions from both Turkey and India, and we are fully prepared to host this Group. Furthermore, we have a specialized committee on energy in our parliament,

*Kuwait Inter-Parliamentary Group*  
*State of Kuwait*



الجمهورية العربية السورية  
مجلس النواب  
دولة الكويت

and we also like to share our experiences in this committee with the members of the committee on energy in the Asian Parliamentary Assembly for the purposes of drafting new specialized legislations and distributing them to our parliaments respectively .

16- Chairman of the Committee: We welcome all your fruitful suggestions, and I would like to ask you to send your suggestions and comments to the General Secretariat. I would like to express my gratitude to the Republic of Turkey for their suggestion to make this Group a permanent one, and we promise to submit an official request to the General Secretariat to make it so.

And in conclusion, I would like to that you for your contributions and attendance, we are in need of more interactions, suggestions, and opinions in regards of alternative and renewable energy because it is the future of the Asian continent.

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الشيخة صباح الأحمد اليمانية  
دولة الكويت

### **Draft Resolution on “Clean Energy In Asia”**

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

*Recalling* APA Resolution (APA/Res/2015/05 adopted in the 7<sup>th</sup> APA Plenary in Lahore – Pakistan in December 2015 and other relevant resolutions,

*Welcoming* the Report of the Secretary-General on the Asian Integrated Energy Market (AIEM) in the meeting of the Energy Sub-Committee held in Islamabad, Pakistan on 27 July 2016,

*Supporting* multilateral cooperation among Asian countries and the work of the APA to develop a clean energy market in Asia and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's)

*Emphasizing* the importance of the adoption and implementation of legislations on renewable energy in Asian countries and stress on the role of Asian Parliaments in the future of renewable energy,

*Concerned* about fossil fuel emissions such as carbon dioxide and other harmful emissions, and the increase of the greenhouse effect in Asia,

*Calling* again for greater emphasis on the concept of renewable energy trade in Asian countries, in which renewable energy resources would become sources of revenue,

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*Encouraging* the utilization of renewable energy resources such as wind, solar energy hydro energy, the energy of waves, geothermal energy and oil producing crops,

*Therefore. We the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,*

1. **Encourage** the utilization and harnessing of renewable energy resources to become a source of revenue and physical benefit,
2. **Urge** the introduction of renewable energy investment projects and drawing up policies for the development and advancement of such projects,
3. **Enable** relevant Asian companies to invest more in sustainable development services and introduce to the Asian energy market new technologies and experiences from different energy providers,
4. **Ensure** balanced and sustainable growth in green financing while putting ambitious plans for financing centers, and converting smart funding towards green financing,
5. **Call** for the promotion of clean energy culture in Asian countries and encourage the intelligent exploitation of energy in general.
6. **Encourage** bilateral and multilateral joint venture projects related to clean energy among Asian companies and countries.
7. **Call** upon Asian governments to direct their sovereign fund towards investing in clean energy projects in Asia.

## ANNEX-XXI



### Asian Parliamentary Assembly Tenth Plenary Session 21 November-24 November 2017 Istanbul, TURKEY

### İSTANBUL DECLARATION

**We**, Members of Parliament from Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, DPR Korea, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq Jordan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Mongolia, Pakistan, Palestine, Laos, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Uzbekistan and Vietnam gathered in Istanbul from 21 November to 24 November 2017, at the invitation of Ismail KAHRAMAN, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey and current APA President;

**Welcoming** Bali Declaration on achieving the 2030 agenda through Inclusive Development, as the outcome document of World Parliamentary Forum on Sustainable Development, held in Bali, Indonesia, on September 6-7, 2017.

**Promoting** women's representation in public life particularly in Parliament.

**Recognizing** that peoples in Asia have brilliant civilizations, philosophies, religions, diverse cultures, arts, ideologies, and have made great achievements in the fields of socio-economic development, science and technology, among others, to meet the demands of societies;

**Concerned** by the increasing tensions in parts of Asia, particularly the threat of terrorism, and the suffering of people affected by ongoing conflicts, especially displaced people, and further concerned by the dire situation of millions of women and young people in all war-torn areas. We, therefore, stress the importance of maintaining world peace, security, stability and development;

**Emphasizing** that violent extremism, which can be conducive to terrorism, should not be associated with any culture, civilization, religion or ethnicity and should not be tolerated. The resolving of issues through radicalization, violent extremism, or terrorism causes great hardship and breeds even more violence, settlement of the issues should be by dialogue and negotiation;

**Welcoming** the recent great achievements in defeating Daesh in collaboration with Iraqi and Syrian people.

**Underlining** our commitment of building societies based on the rule of law with Asian Parliaments not only representing Asian people, but also enacting legislation and promoting dialogues, reconciliation and a culture of peace;

DO HEREBY EXPRESS OUR COMMITMENT TO:

**Emphasize** the urgent need to undertake transparent investigation into serious human rights abuses and violations, including sexual violence and abuse and violence against children concerning people of Rakhine State and in particular Rohingya and to hold to account all those responsible for such acts and Stresses the importance of granting immediate and unhindered access to the UN Fact Finding Mission established by the UN Human Rights Council in March 2017,

**Emphasize** the importance of safe and dignified return of refugees and displaced people to their place of origin for the long-term solution of the crises in line with the recommendations of Kofi Annan Commission Report and welcome the signed instrument between the governments of Myanmar and Bangladesh to that end on 23 November 2017,

**Demand** the Government of Myanmar to grant immediate, safe and unhindered access to UN Agencies and their partners as well as other domestic and international non-governmental organizations to provide humanitarian assistance in Rakhine State as well as to ensure the safety and security of all communities particularly Rohingyas in Rakhine State and humanitarian personnel.

**Urge** unimpeded delivery of humanitarian aid in Myanmar, Syria, Yemen and Iraq.

**Appreciate** the role and actions of the people and government of Bangladesh in giving shelter to more than a million Rohingya.

**Encourage** the establishment of a national, legal framework as well as a broad legal framework for the protection of migrant workers, noting the legal and illegal status of the different cases

**Emphasize** the need to promote peace, stability and development in Asia through peaceful resolution of ongoing conflicts and mutually beneficial economic cooperation;

**Underscore** the importance of Iraq's territorial unity and call on member states to show solidarity with the Iraqi Parliament, in the face of critical developments in their country;

**Express** grave concern at the alarming deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Yemen and strongly reject any attack on Holy Places of Islam located in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia by any militant group.

**Reaffirm** its support for an independent sovereign and contiguous Palestine within 1967 borders with Al Quds as its capital, condemn the illegal settlement activities, demolitions, and other violations of the occupation forces, welcome the reconciliation process for the unity of Palestine and urge the international community to re-launch the peace process based on established parameters and the Arab Peace Plan.

**Welcome** the valuable efforts and achievements in the framework of Astana Process to deescalate violence, facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the affected people in Syria and provide conditions to find a political solution for the Syrian crisis

**Congratulate** Pakistan on being elected as the next President of APA for the term 2020 – 2021 and also express the hope that Pakistan will continue with its efforts to embarking on the journey to realize the vision of the Asian Parliament ,

**Thank** Turkey for its warm, gracious and efficient hospitality in hosting the Tenth Plenary Session in İstanbul. Appreciate the continuous support provided by the President of Turkey in strengthening the cooperation and solidarity among the APA Member Countries.

The next plenary session will be held in 2018 in Turkey.

## ANNEX – XXII



### Resolution on “Towards an Asian Parliament”

APA/ Res/2017/01  
23 November 2017

**We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,**

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

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

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

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

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

**Therefore,**

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



## Resolution on “Good Governance”

APA/ Res/2017/02  
23 November 2017

**We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,**

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

*Recalling*, UN Commission on Human Rights Resolution No.2005/68 of 20 April 2005, UN Human Rights Council Resolution No.7/11 of 27 March 2008 on “Good Governance for the Promotion of Human Rights” and as well as the “United Nations Millennium Declaration”;

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

*Recalling* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948, the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination, 1969, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1976, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1976, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 1979, the Convention against Torture, 1987, the Convention on the Rights of Child, 1990, which provides every citizen, irrespective of gender, religion or race, a right to take part in the public affairs;

**Therefore,**

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



## Resolution on Rule of “Law and Judicial Empowerment”

APA/ Res/2017/03  
23 November 2017

**We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,**

*Recalling* the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, which are indispensable foundations for a more peaceful, prosperous and a conflict free world;

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

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

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

*Further reaffirming* that the rule of law is and the protection of human rights can realize through the empowerment of the judiciary;

*Convinced* that the rule of law and sustainable development are inextricably linked and mutually reinforcing, and are an essential prerequisite for the realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

**Therefore,**

1. **Stress** the importance of civilian capacity development through rule of law;
2. **Stress** the importance of institutional strengthening by maintaining the rule of law;
3. **Urge** Member Parliaments to ensure compliance with international humanitarian laws, as they are an indispensable prerequisite for improving the situation of victims of armed conflict, through enactment of appropriate legislation and development of oversight mechanisms;
4. **Commit** to ensure that impunity is not tolerated for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity or for violations of international humanitarian law and gross violations of human rights law, based on the principles of international cooperation and non-interference of States in the internal affairs of other States, in accordance with international law;
5. **Encourage** the promotion of a system of justice which incorporates the full range of judicial measures to ensure accountability, justice, provide remedies to victims, reconciliation, and establish independent oversight;

6. **Reiterate** our strong and unequivocal condemnation of terrorism and extremism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes, as it constitutes one of the most serious threats to the rule of Law; and
7. **Emphasize** the importance of our continued efforts for promotion of the rule of law in all its aspects, and to take steps to strengthen the rule of law for realization of peace and security, human rights and development.



## Resolution on “Good Parliamentary Practices”

APA/ Res/2017/04  
23 November 2017

### **We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly:**

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

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

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

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

Therefore,

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

7. **Urge** APA Member Parliaments to adopt positive measures for ensuring a meaningful participation of women, minorities and marginalized communities in their working;
8. **Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to promote inter-parliamentary cooperation through formation of friendship groups and working groups on issues of common interest;
9. **Further Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to encourage developing democracies through sharing their experiences and best parliamentary practices and provide technical and other required support with a view to facilitate their process of democratization.



## **Resolution on Building Prosperity in Asia Through Friendship and Cooperation**

**APA/ Res/2017/05  
23 November 2017**

*We the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly*

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

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

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

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

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

*Emphasizing* the fundamental role of democracy and human rights in the promotion of friendship and cooperation in Asia and calling upon all Member Parliaments and their respective Governments to ensure equal and non-discriminatory access of their citizens to civil rights;

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

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

1. **Urge** collective and concerted efforts by all Asian States whose parliaments are APA Members to provide humanitarian assistance of all kinds to the vulnerable people in war- torn countries;
2. **Call Upon** all Asian States to direct their diplomatic efforts at reducing political tensions and utilize all ways and means within their power to avoid and de-escalate controversies which have potential to undermine principles of friendship and cooperation in Asia;
3. **Urge** Asian Parliaments to disseminate information about the APA Declaration on the Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia by all available means including parliamentary and state publications, parliamentary friendship groups, public programs, etc.
4. **Decide** that every Member Parliament would motivate public and private media networks, websites and the like at local and national levels to engage in promoting and spreading the word about the content, importance and positive results of the adoption and implementation of the APA Declaration on the Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia;
5. **Encourage** Asian academic institutions, think-tanks and research centers, universities and educational institutions, as well as professional associations throughout Asia to take part in promoting and adhering to the tenets and guidelines enshrined in the APA Declaration on the Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia,
6. **Call upon** all APA Member Parliaments to inform the APA Secretariat of measures they have taken in promoting the APA Declaration on Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia
7. **Request** the Secretary-General to continue his consultations and coordination with the APA Member Parliaments as well as interested Asian organizations and academic institutions for promoting further activities and joint initiatives pertaining to Friendship and Cooperation in Asia.



## **Resolution on Asian Parliaments and Governments Together for Prosperity in Asia**

APA/ Res/2017/06  
23 November 2017

*We the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA),*

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

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

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

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

4. **Request** APA Member Parliaments to identify and describe their priority desirable topics for receiving training, as well their capabilities to offer training and best practices, and share them with other Parliaments through the APA

Secretariat, in order to organize training programs on exchanging best practices and learning from each other;

5. **Request** the Vice-President for Political Affairs to report to the Executive Council and the Plenary Sessions on his/her activities pertaining to the formation of working groups from interested Member Parliaments to focus on the implementation of APA decisions on political affairs;
6. **Request** the Secretary-General to expand the scope of its contacts and communications with inter-governmental as well as inter-parliamentary organizations who work on issues relevant to the items on the APA agenda in order to facilitate further interaction and joint efforts on common grounds with a view to enhancing cooperation between Asian Parliaments and Governments and report thereon to the next session of the APA Standing Committee on Political Affairs and the Executive Council.



## **Resolution on Asian Parliaments’ Unwavering Support for the Palestinian People**

APA/ Res/2017/07  
23 November 2017

*We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,*

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

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

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

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

*Supporting* the establishment of an independent Palestinian State with al-Quds al-Sharif (East Jerusalem) as its capital, on the borders of June 4, 1967.

Denouncing the declared intention of the US to transfer its embassy and discouraging the transfer of any other embassy to Jerusalem;

*Expressing* serious concerns on Israel’s lack of commitment to abide by resolutions and recommendations of the UN Security Council, the General Assembly, the Human Rights Council, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, and the APA regarding the human rights situation in the occupied Palestinian territories, particularly in Al-Quds Al-Sharif (East Jerusalem);

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

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

1. **Urge** all Members of the APA to support and treat the State of Palestine as a full member of the United Nations
2. **Denounce** all violations of international law which threaten international peace and security including all acts of terrorism and organized crimes; and violations of human rights committed by the Israeli occupying forces in Palestine.
3. **Encourage** all members of the international community to take up with the pressure on Israel to immediately release all the Palestinian prisoners including the Members of the Palestinian Parliament; dismantle all illegal settlements as well as the entire separating wall and put an end to confiscating Palestinian lands.
4. **Declare** all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken by Israel, including expropriation of land and properties which tend to change the legal status of Jerusalem as invalid and bearing no legal effect on their original status.
5. **Condemn** Israel's continuation of building settlements defying applicable international law particularly Security Council resolution 2334 of December 2016; disregarding the legitimate rights of the Palestinian People including their right to resist and protest against foreign occupation of their lands; and hampering international efforts towards achieving a just and lasting peace in the region;
6. **Express** grave concerns on the suppression and injustice, as well as continuing violence practiced against the Palestinian people, particularly women and children, in the occupied Palestinian territories under the Israeli occupation including East Jerusalem, and in the Syrian Golan occupied by Israel;
7. **Call Upon** all members of the APA and the United Nations as well as all regional and international organizations concerned, particularly the United Nations Security Council and the International Criminal Court to address, under the UN Charter and the Rome Statute, the crimes against humanity and the war crimes committed by Israel in Palestine which threaten the international peace and security;
8. **Praise** the decision taken by the European Union not to purchase any products produced in the settlements based in the occupied territories and call on states of the APA Member Parliaments to act in a similar way;
9. **Demand** Israel to stop the systematic destruction of the Palestinian cultural heritage as well as the destruction of public and private properties, as laid down in the Fourth Geneva Convention;

10. **Reject** the unlawful resolutions adopted by the Israeli Knesset such as Judaisation of the Jerusalem and the Citizenship Loyalty Law, denying the State of Palestine and the rights of Palestinian People in the occupied territories;
11. **Call Upon** the international community to fulfill its pledges to rebuild infrastructure and rehabilitate people in Gaza which have been destroyed by Israeli forces and to support the Palestinian economy in the occupied Palestine.



## Resolution on Asian Integrated Energy Market

APA/ Res/2017/08  
23 November 2017

*We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,*

**Recalling** APA Resolution on Integrated Energy Market in Asia (APA/Res/2015/05) adopted at the 8<sup>th</sup> APA Plenary in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, December 2015 and other relevant APA meetings.

**Welcoming** the Report of the Secretary-General on the Asian Integrated Energy Market (AIEM), and the meeting of the Energy Sub-Committee held in Islamabad, Pakistan, on 27 July 2016;

**Considering** the role of energy market integration between West and East Asia in the future due to high rate of energy consumption in the East and South of Asia.

**Concerned** about the political crisis in the West Asia in recent years as a real obstacle for the realization of Asian Integrated Energy Market;

**Recognizing** that “Integrated Asian Energy Market” can help the Asian countries to maximize the interests of both producers and consumers and minimize the risks and costs of energy in Asia;

**Welcoming** the strong support of North-East, East and South-East Asia for “Integrated Asian Energy Market”;

**Emphasizing** the need to develop multilateral co-operation among Asian countries and the work of APA to develop an Integrated Energy Market in Asia as efforts to provide a sustainable, green and clean energy as they are crucial for the climate change mitigation and the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals;

**Reaffirming** the importance of adoption and implementation of environmentally sound energy policies and projects throughout Asia;

**Welcoming** the decreasing trend of energy intensity in the most regions of the world, particularly in Asia;

**Welcoming** the Asian governments’ commitments to reduce carbon emissions affecting global warming and environment;

**Emphasizing** the importance of unimpeded flows of energy sources, technologies and capital, and

acknowledging that clean and renewable energy needs to be affordable to all;

**Recognizing** that sustainable development, energy access, and energy security are critical to the shared prosperity and future of the region;

**Supporting** a wider use of Natural gas as an economically efficient and ecologically clean fuel to promote sustainable development as well as to reduce the greenhouse emissions in accordance with the Paris Agreement on the climate change;

**Stressing** on the commitment of APA members to cooperate and coordinate regionally and globally in the field of renewable energy, with the aim of joining up efforts, standards, norms, and objectives;

**Encouraging** parliaments to develop strategies that support governments in relation to sustainable development, and to expand in depending on clean, renewable energy, such as the solar, hydropower, nuclear, and wind energies and priority should be given to the utilization of water as a source, when applicable;

**Calling on** APA Member Countries to foster cooperation through joint research initiatives and transfer technology on clean renewable energy;

1. **Decide** to expand the mandate of the Advisory Group on Energy to link the demand and the supply for energy in Asia and to promote the sustainable use of energy, in line with the spirit enshrined in the UN Summit 2015 Declaration to secure our planet for present and future generations;
2. **Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to encourage their respective governments to expand bilateral and multilateral cooperation among Asian countries in the field of energy and its sustainability and to link such efforts with the existing international commitments such as the SDGs and the UN Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC);
3. **Call up** APA Member States in South and West Asia to respond positively and urgently to the appeal of “Integrated Asian Energy Market” in North-East, East and South-East Asia;
4. **Urge** all Members of APA Parliaments to report to the Secretary-General on their national experiences in the field of increasing energy efficiency and their energy policies for the betterment of the information of the Advisory Group and to be forwarded to the Plenary;
5. **Request** the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member Parliaments on the implementation of this resolution and to report thereon to the next meeting of the Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development Affairs;



## Resolution on Environmental Issues

APA/ Res/2017/09  
23 November 2017

*We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,*

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

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

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

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

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

**Emphasizing** the natural capital such as forests, biodiversity, freshwater, and coastal and marine ecosystems as being essential to making “green economies” a reality;

**Recognizing** that climate change represents an urgent and potentially irreversible threat to human societies and the planet and thus requires the widest possible cooperation by all countries, and their participation in an effective and appropriate international response, with a view to accelerating the mitigation efforts;

**Underlining** the necessity of a comprehensive and long-term strategy to combat desertification and marine life deterioration, thus improving the living conditions of the people living in arid, semi-arid and coastal areas;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Emphasizing** the importance of cooperation among Member Parliaments with regard to efforts to combat desertification;

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

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

**Agreeing** to uphold and promote regional and international cooperation in order to mobilize

stronger and more ambitious climate action by all Parties and non-Party stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector, financial institutions, cities and other sub-national authorities, local communities and indigenous peoples;

**Stressing** that all parties, including the business sectors have responsibility to preserve and conserve environment and that any ecological and environmental damage should be held responsible, according to the prevailing laws and regulations;  
**Stressing** the central role of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in providing for collective international response to the challenge of the global climate change;

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

1. **Invite** APA developed members to assess how loss and damage due to climate change affects the world, particularly vulnerable developing countries in Asia;
2. **Invite** also Members of APA parliaments to be mindful of the right to a ecologically-balanced environment;
3. **Urge** Member Parliaments to modify, or enact, laws according to their respective needs to enforce strict protection of natural habitats and environment, as well as people, threatened by environmental deterioration;
4. **Call** upon all Member Parliaments to promote the efficiency and effectiveness of targeted development programs through coordination efforts, including by UNDP;
5. **Call** upon APA Member countries to take steps for public awareness concerning environmental protection and facilitating implementation of a global-scale system of interconnected collective and national efforts to mitigate negative anthropogenic impact on climate with a view to achieve sustainable development;
6. **Urge** APA Parliaments to support Sustainable Development Goals with regard to environmental issues by adopting appropriate legislation;
7. **Call on** APA member countries to uphold rule of law on environmental issues and to share good practices on that matters;
8. **Invite** the APA Member Parliaments to proceed with legislation and other legal actions deemed appropriate and instrumental in encouraging the governments to formulate and implement legislations, policies and measures with regard to the following:
  - Integrating climate policies in broader development policies with a view to making implementation and overcoming barriers easier;
  - Financing and encouraging R&D for low carbon or cleaner technologies with

a view to stimulating technological advances, reduce costs, and enable progress toward stabilization;

- Legalizing then necessity of observing the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) as a step towards bringing a balance between the three pillars of sustainable development namely: economic growth, social development and environmental protection;
  - Encouraging the maximum possible interaction, coordination, integrity and solidarity among Asian delegations involved in climate change negotiations with a view to providing for a collective wisdom by Asia as their common interests which in turn shall strengthen Asian regionalism and contribute to the cause of an Asian integration;
  - Interacting with and make collective attempts with other Asian States Parties for pushing the environmental priorities and urgencies of Asia within the agenda of financial and technological mechanisms of environment related instruments such as Global Environmental Facility(GEF), those operating within UNEP and the established technological and financial mechanisms in Durban in 2011;
9. **Invite** APA Member Parliaments to exchange experiences and best practices on environmental issues and provide, on a voluntary basis, the data and information concerning issues related to sustainable development, climate change and other environment related major issues to the Secretariat to be compiled in a data base for the reference and use by all Member Parliaments;
  10. **Invite** also APA Member Parliaments, who are in a position to do so, to provide material and technical support to APA members in their efforts to combat climate change and desertification;
  11. **Call** on parliamentarians from APA to urge their respective governments to publish Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) after Paris Summit;
  12. **Urge** APA Member Parliaments to support the objectives of the Paris Agreement to control and reduce the greenhouse gasses, early complete the system of law and policy in line with international commitment in response to climate change;
  13. **Note** with concern that the estimated aggregate greenhouse gas emission levels in 2025 and 2030 resulting from the intended nationally determined contributions do not fall within least-cost 2°C scenarios;
  14. **Note** also that much greater emission reduction efforts will be required than those associated with the intended nationally determined contributions in order to hold the increase in the global average temperature to below 2° C above pre-industrial levels to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels;
  15. **Recommend** action be taken by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) within existing framework to assist the Asian region and especially its developing nations with mitigating the effects of climate change and protecting natural resources in order to ensure a healthy environment for future generations focused on aiding developing countries to promote mitigation, as

appropriate and adapt to the increasing effects of climate change and the protection of natural resources;

16. **Call** upon APA to expand partnership with country and partner outside the region to exchange information on climate change, and natural disaster, mobilized financial resources to invest in project related to clean and energy saving technologies, and establish a research center in Asia to provide aid to the developing Asian countries in support for national policy programs with regards to sustainable Information and Communication Technology (ICT);
17. **Recommend** APA Members to deliberate the mechanism for an Asia wide response in times of natural disasters and calamities to provide timely aid and rescue to those in need of help;
18. **Request** developed APA Member Parliaments to offer advice to the other members on how to acquire and effectively utilize the tools to combat economic shocks resulting from climate change, such as damage to property and infrastructure, lost productivity, mass migration, and coping costs through the preparation of sustainable policies pertaining to disaster preparation programs with special attention given to the needs of the rural population; rain water harvesting; green roofs; river embankment strengthening; food silos; early warning systems; and information and communication technology to facilitate information sharing;
19. **Request** the Secretary General to seek the views of APA Member Parliaments on the implementation of the present resolution and report there on to the next session of the Standing-Committee in 2018;



## **Resolution on Financial Affairs: Ensuring Efforts for Economic Growth**

APA/ Res/2017/10  
23 November 2017

*We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Encouraging** parliaments to adopt policies through their legislative and scrutiny roles aiming to enhance the role of the private sector and increasing its contribution to economic integration, in order to create the appropriate jobs or opportunity of jobs;

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

1. **Call** upon Asian governments to take new policy approaches to develop a more comprehensive and innovative growth strategies needed to sustain a more resilient, balanced, sustainable and inclusive economic growth that is necessary means to create decent jobs and reduce inequalities to promote the formation of a regional SME's network;
2. **Stress** upon Member Parliaments to remove all obstacles to socio-economic progress and all forms of discriminations, including, but not limited to, those on the basis of race, colour, creed, cast, sex, language, religion, nationality, and ethnicity ;
3. **Call upon** APA Parliaments to ensure by all means respect for the dignity and value of all human beings and ensure adherence to human rights and social justice by legislative and oversight means, ensuring equality of opportunity for all;
4. **Encourage** Member Parliaments to work on an informal debate at APA platform on the potential benefits of social justice in their respective countries and promote greater cooperation for equitable economic development in Asia;
5. **Call upon** APA member parliaments to support the development of Asian-led multilateral bank sand its capacity to promote equitable economic growth, improve national and trans-boundary connectivity and to seek possible establishment of a regional stabilization fund in times of economic crisis;
6. **Encourage** APA member governments to create a protocol to enhance resilience to economic crisis which regulates the allocation for some budget reserves for economic crisis mitigation;
7. **Also encourage** governments in Asia to promote cross-border private investments while ensuring an institutional capacity and prudent regulatory frame work to enable countries to absorb large capital flows, while at the same time using bilateral swap arrangement to promote the role of local currency in financing cross-border trade;
8. **Urge** Parliamentarians of Member Legislatures to promote social justice and development in their respective policies as a common interest of all nations of Asia by encouraging, promoting and endorsing national and regional efforts to raise the living standards of peoples;
9. **Recommend** APA member parliaments to promote the adoption of Basel III to improve supervision on financial sector governance;

10. **Encourage** parliaments in APA member countries to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable Development and focus on policies that alleviate poverty, including improving access to health, education, capital, employment and social protection to help close income inequalities;
11. **Call** on APA member parliaments to consider reviewing their respective legislations, where appropriate, to give more support to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) by giving access to low interest credit loan and to provide capacity building and regional networking to integrate SMEs into regional and global value chains;
12. **Encourage** parliaments to support financial inclusion for the poor in each respective country and to share best practices of financial inclusion in the region;
13. **Stress** the importance to invest in human development and to provide sufficient public funding for education and health for everyone, without gender bias, to face the future global and Asian economic demands;
14. **Request** the governments in respective countries to channel more funds in joint research and development (R&D) activities as a means to spur innovation and viable economic growth strategies to sustain a more resilient economic growth;
15. **Also request** the governments in respective Asian countries to promote the implementation of low carbon economy despite the global economy deceleration;
16. **Call** upon the APA Member Parliaments to continuously promote the need for reform in global financial institutions and architecture, financial technology regulation, with the view for a balanced world economic and financial order;
17. **Call** upon APA member countries to strive to create an enabling institutional and business environment that can promote financial stability, financial inclusion, and efficient mobilization and utilization of the available resources;
18. **Call** Upon APA member countries to facilitate investing their sovereign funds and encourage their private investors to invest in Asia rather than other parts of the world.
19. **Concern very strongly** about the use of sanctions or any mechanisms of financial and economic pressure on APA Member States applied for political purposes.



## Resolution on Poverty Eradication

APA/ Res/2017/11  
23 November 2017

*We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,*

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

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

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

**Reaffirming** that each country must take primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and strategies cannot be overemphasized in the poverty eradication;

**Pointing** out that poverty eradication should be included in a public policy, which adopts specific programs and enterprises in each country, in addition to adoption of executable international policies as the poverty eradication represents the social security of any country;

**Stressing** the need for enhanced international cooperation on poverty eradication, and the obligation of developed countries to provide financial, technical and capacity building assistance to developing countries;

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

**Mindful of the fact** that the sustainable development recognizes that poverty eradication, fighting inequality, preserving the planet and creating inclusive economic growth are linked to each other and interdependent and that the SDGs balance all the three crucial sustainable development dimensions: the economic, the social and the environmental;

**Reaffirming** that poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development;

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

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

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

*We therefore,*

1. **Urge** APA Member Parliaments to work closely with their governments in the formulation and implementation of the measures which are outlined in the 2030 Agenda for the Sustainable Development;
2. **Determine** to be more ambitious in our efforts to eradicate poverty, reduce inequality, ensure food security, access to healthcare and education;
3. **Urge** APA Member Parliaments to redouble their efforts in supporting activities of poverty eradication and encourage their respective governments to facilitate the implementation of effective policies to promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all;
4. **Urge** Member Parliaments to create awareness among general public about the importance of food and take possible steps to prevent its wastage.
5. **Invite** Member Parliaments to adopt necessary legislation to a) improve labor market regulations, b) support the informal sector and offering increased security to it, c) establish legal savings and loan associations that can help to reduce the reliance on moneylenders, d) promote modern agriculture which contributes essentially to reduction of poverty in urban and rural areas, e) empower the poor to improve their living conditions and participate in decision-making which affects their lives, f) help to upgrade the infrastructure and services in areas where the poor live and work and to provide better education for poor particularly for girls and g) improve disaster preparedness, disaster relief as well as post-disaster economic recovery;
6. **Encourage** Member Parliaments to support investment in climate resilient agriculture and to adopt a unified approach to combat hunger by promoting public and private investments, increased access to inputs, lands and technologies;
7. **Invite** APA Member Parliaments to take appropriate legislative measures for poverty

alleviation including providing financial assistance to domestic producers through,

- a) Government grants to support sustainable farming activities
- b) Microfinance loans for small scale farmers

- 8 Recommend** Member Parliaments to support and strengthen the capacities of government and communities to prepare for and respond to acute hunger arising from disasters through community based on social protection or safety nets;
- 9 Encourage** Member Parliaments to take joint action to organize aid campaigns, on a voluntary basis upon the request of a Member Parliament, for assistance in the context of alleviating poverty including to enhance domestic production of food by participating in agricultural technologies and training programs;
- 10 Urge** APA Member States to give significance to development of sustainable agriculture practices while making national policies, to achieve Sustainable Development Goals;
- 11 Call** for increased cooperation between developed and developing member countries for improving food security by means of multilateral information sharing, especially in an area of sustainable agricultural technology;
- 12 Stressing** the significance of women participation and contribution in agriculture sector for improving productivity food security and eliminating poverty;
- 13 Request** the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member Parliaments on their efforts to implement this resolution and to submit a report thereon to the next meeting of the Standing-Committee in 2017.



## **Resolution on The Role of APA Parliaments in Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals**

APA/ Res/2017/12  
23 November 2017

*We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. **Endorse** the outcome document of the UN Summit for the adoption Post-2015 Development Agenda which adopted the SDGs as the new development frame work for 2015- 2030. The list of the SDGs is annexed;
2. **Invite** APA Members States to review and assess opportunities and legislative gaps to

engage the private sector to invest in infrastructure on a sustainable basis ;

3. **Decide** to be actively involved in the integration of SDGs into national development programs and the formulation of national policies to support the mainstreaming and implementation of SDGs;
4. **Invite** APA members to involve all actors in sustainable development consideration to ensure transparency and accountability in the implementation process;
5. **Urge** the Asian Parliaments to contribute to the national efforts towards achieving the SDGs including through the establishment of the appropriate mechanisms to monitor the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda at national level;
6. **Recommend** to Asian Parliaments and Governments to consider establishing an Asian information center in order to provide independent, scientific and reliable data and analytical information in reference to sustainable development indicators;
7. **Call upon** APA Members to provide adequate budgetary resources and adopt legislations which are relevant to support and monitor the successful implementation of the SDGs;
8. **Resolve** to strengthen the role of national parliaments in the advocacy of SDGs so that people understand that the SDGs are relevant to their lives;
9. **Request** the Standing Committees of APA to deliberate in a comprehensive manner issues of SDGs which are relevant to the work of their committees;
10. **Stress** the importance to develop data and indicators to setup a proper follow-up mechanism on the implementation of SDGs and the need to strengthen statistical capacities of all countries to support the progress;
11. **Call upon** parliaments to contribution, through its roles, to highlight the priority to the enhancement of sustainable agriculture as food security, will constitute the most insisting problem of future sustainable development objectives;
12. **Urge** Asian governments to engage in bilateral or multilateral partnerships in order to build infrastructures and sustainable development projects using governmental and sovereign funds;
13. **Request** all APA Member Parliaments to report their achievements in the implementation of the SDGs to the APA Secretariat in order to provide information for further discussion in the next Economic and Sustainable Development Standing Committee.

## Sustainable Development Goals

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

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



## Resolution on Water and Sanitation in Asia for All

APA/ Res/2017/13  
23 November 2017

*We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,*

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

**Recalling** United Nations’ General Assembly resolution (A/64/292) adopted on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2010, which formally recognized water and sanitation as human rights and UN Human Rights Council resolution (A/HRC/RES/18/1) adopted on the 28 September 2011, recognizing that the right to water and sanitation are part of the right to an adequate standard of living;

**Welcoming** the SDG goal 6 on ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, including universal and equitable access to drinking water, sustainable water resources management and wastewater treatment, providing a further anchor for sustainability in the water governance field;

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

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

**Stress upon** the need for Asian Governments to focus in national policies on water and sanitation issues and contribute towards international efforts in resolving these issues;

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

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

3. **Reaffirm** that APA Member States have the primary responsibility to ensure the full realization of SDGs including Goal 6, and must take steps, nationally and through international assistance and cooperation, especially economic and technical, to the sanitation by all appropriate means;
4. **Request** Member Parliaments to urge their respective governments to cooperate with their regions to discuss the water scarcity challenge all over Asian countries and to study in depth the causes of the water scarcity and to provide appropriate solutions and strategies to overcome this challenge;
5. **Request** the APA Member States to ensure financing according to the available resources for the provision of affordable water and sanitation, and to develop indicators and data collection mechanisms to monitor progress and to identify shortcomings;
6. **Encourage** integrated water resource planning and management<sup>4</sup> for reducing widespread scarcity and pollution of freshwater resources in many regions and priority should be given to the fulfillment of basic needs and safeguarding of ecosystems in developing and using water resources;
7. **Urge** APA Parliamentarians to vigorously engage with executives on building inclusive frameworks between States for reduction of climate change impacts. These climate change impacts have severe consequences in the shape of water scarcity and flooding;
8. **Ask** APA Members to support advance technology transfers from developed countries to the developing countries of Asia and sharing of good practices for efficient allocation of water;
9. **Underline** the important role of the international cooperation provided by the United Nations, international development partners, as well as by donor agencies, in the achievement of the SDGs, and urges development partners to harmonize their strategies with the national initiatives and plans of APA Members related to safe drinking water and sanitation;
10. **Request** the Secretary-General to report, the achievement of APA Member Parliaments on this resolution, to the next Standing Committee on Sustainable Development.

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<sup>4</sup> **Integrated water resources management (IWRM)** has been defined by the Global Water Partnership (GWP) as "a process which promotes the coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources, in order to maximize the resultant economic and social welfare in an equitable manner without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems".



## Resolution on Planning APA Budget

APA/ Res/2017/14  
23 November 2017

*We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,*

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

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

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

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

*We, the participants of the Standing Committee on Staff and Financial Regulations*

1. **Request** all APA Member Parliaments to take required measures, according to their respective internal budget planning procedures, to secure budgetary resources required for the payment of their contribution;
2. **Encourage** willing APA Member Parliaments, to make voluntary financial contributions over and above the earmarked contribution to the APA for the implementation of its resolutions;
3. **Appreciate** the provision of financial and logistical support to the APA Secretariat by the Islamic Parliament of Iran since 2007, and request the generous continuation of its supports pending the full implementation of Financial Regulations and until the regular payments of assessed contributions by all Member Parliaments are securely made; tentatively for APA budget of 2018,
4. **Acknowledge** the generosity of the APA President and Vice-Presidents in contributing to the APA expenses by hosting the events and complying with the APA Decision on Modalities for Effective Organization of the APA Meetings adopted by the 7<sup>th</sup> Plenary on 10 December 2013.

5. **Request** the Secretary General to prepare the APA Annual Budget draft based on the (Program & Performance Budget model), that requires programs, projects and expenses estimation based on the Assembly objectives, and on the policies and plans approved by the standing committee, and then to be presented to the Executive Council of the APA for final approval by the Plenary Session.
6. **Consider** the consequential bearing and impact of the APA Staff Regulations and the APA Financial Regulations on the Charter of the APA, suggest the Plenary and Executive Council of the APA for an immediate revisit of the Charter and the Rules of Procedures of the Plenary of the APA, 2007.
7. Allocate the APA Budget financial funds through the following three Items, the Secretary General shall specify the principles, objectives & rules for the Budget preparation and present it to the Standing Committee on Staff and Financial Regulations.
  - I. Operational and Strategic Budget Item: expenses allocated initially upon the Budget approval and attestation.
  - II. Additional Budget Item: amounts decided to be added to cover APA new projects and programs.
  - III. Emergency Budget Item: which shall be decided vide a decision to be taken by the Executive Council to cover emergency events or incidents.
8. **Request** the Executive Council to direct the General Secretariat to communicate with all members to give their approval on their commitment to the contribution to the Asian Parliamentary Assembly budget. In addition, each parliament should state their choice on how the Asian Parliamentary Assembly should calculate the contribution; either by contributing equally or based on the percentage of the GDP.
9. **Recommend** to exempt Palestine from the assessed contribution till the end of occupation, and the establishment of its independent state.



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

APA/ Res/2017/15  
23 November 2017

*We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Noting** the opportunities offered by globalization for greater interaction among cultures and civilizations, as well as challenges brought about by its trends to preserving and celebrating the rich intellectual and cultural diversity in Asia;

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

**Deploing** the un-repairable damage brought to cultural and religious heritage by terrorism and organized crimes, especially damages to Muslim and Christian historical sites and holy shrines and mosques by indiscriminate bombing and shelling in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan by ISIS and other terrorist groups;

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

1. **Determine** to encourage and promote further intercultural dialogue and inter-religious exchanges throughout Asia;
2. **Resolve** to appreciate and promote the benefits of diversity in Asian nations, and encourage values such as justice, human rights, non-discrimination, democracy and respect within and among communities and nations;
3. **Reject** all manifestations of discrimination that are based on racism, racial and caste discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance;
4. **Remain Committed** to the protection of the rights of indigenous and ethnic communities so as to ensure the fulfillment of indigenous community rights in line with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
5. **Urge** relevant governmental agencies to further facilitate consular services as appropriate for citizens of Asian countries to allow for greater people-to-people interaction;
6. **Acknowledge** that illegal import, export and transfer of ownership of cultural property and artifacts is responsible for the impoverishment of the cultural identity of the countries of origin of such property;
7. **Decide** to remain cognizant of damages to Muslim and Christian holy places and historical sites by ISIS terrorist organization in Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan;

8. **Urge** Member Parliaments to consider ratifying the International Convention for the Safeguarding of World Natural and Cultural Heritage and the International Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage;
9. **Call Upon** APA Member Parliaments to consider drafting a model legislation to combat smuggling of cultural objects in Asia;
10. **Call Upon** all Member Parliaments to promote tolerance and empathy among Asian nations with a view to diminish distrust, misunderstanding, and conflict among religious communities;
11. **Call Upon** APA Member Parliaments to support establishing an award to be presented annually to outstanding Asian artists; authors, poets, film makers, painters, etc, who best convey the APA's commitment to cultural diversity in Asia;
12. **Condemn** all forms of contemptuous actions against religions, holy books, religious places and personalities and religious rituals;
13. **Reiterate** that during armed conflict, states should adopt measures to safeguard the cultural and historical heritage of a nation in conformity with international law and the principles and objectives of international agreements and UNESCO recommendations concerning the protection of such heritage during hostilities;
14. **Reiterate** that Member Parliaments should adopt measures to safeguard and restore the cultural and historical heritage of nations in conformity with International law and the principles of objectives of international agreements and UNESCO recommendations concerning the protection of such heritage during hostilities, including those caused by conflicts and violent extremism;
15. **Request** the APA Secretary General to uphold cooperation between APA and international and regional organizations such as UNESCO, United Nations Alliance of Civilizations(UNAOC), ISESCO and relevant Asian NGOs active in promoting cultural diversity and dialogue among civilizations;
16. **Request** the Secretary General to work with the Universities in the Asian region to do researches and studies on the identification and promotion of common cultural aspects of the Asian countries;
17. **Request** the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member Parliaments on their efforts to implement this resolution;



## **Resolution on Asian Integration through Information and Communication Technology**

APA/ Res/2017/16  
23 November 2017

*We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. **Call Upon** APA Member Parliaments to volunteer for providing knowledge and know-how, technical assistance, financial support, human resources; and other form of assistance in creating a "Virtual Asian Parliament" based on the report by the APA Secretary General on the subject matter in order to enhance collaboration and interaction among parliaments and parliamentarians in Asia and as a prelude to establishing a model Asian parliament;
2. **Determine** all the modern and traditional ways to help complete the plan to promote, publicize and disseminate information amongst citizens within the APA region; including the use of social media;
3. **Call Upon** APA Member Parliaments to support vocational and knowledge-based education in Asia in order to enhance people's life-skills and competitiveness in coping with the challenges of globalization;
4. **Urge** APA Member Parliaments to share best practices and exchange experiences with a view to inspiring a common approach toward Asian integration through holding special workshops and forums among Asian Member Parliaments;
5. **Call upon** the UN and its affiliated organizations, particularly UNESCO, to support the Members of this Assembly surmount the hurdles, identified by research centers, think tanks and intellectuals, hampering circulation of ideas through available means for free flow of communication and information;
6. **Request** the Secretary-General to seek possible technical and financial assistance from Member Parliaments and other institutions to facilitate the implementation of this resolution and prepare a report with comprehensive approach to accelerate the process of Asian Integration.



## **Resolution on Collaboration on Health Equity in Asia**

**APA/ Res/2017/17  
23 November 2017**

*We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,*

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

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

**Taking** note of diversity of health equity status among countries in Asia;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Emphasizing** the need to comprehensively deal with social and health related problems emanating from drug and substances abuse and low quality drugs;

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

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

1. **Welcome** the Report of the Secretary-General contained in SG/Rep/ 2014/02 dated 10 August, 2014;
2. **Underline** the report of the Commission on Social Determinants of Health for addressing the impact of socio-economic inequalities on health at global, regional and national levels;
3. **Urge** the APA Member Parliaments to incorporate the issue of Social Determinants of Health (SDH) more intensively in other APA themes and activities;
4. **Urge** the APA Member Parliaments to strengthen collaboration among themselves with a view to formulating a coherent approach with regard to social determinants of health in Asia, especially education, housing, and employment;
5. **Invite** the APA Member Parliaments to promote health equity in Asia through sharing experiences and best practices on identifying vulnerability and inequity and actively advocate the inclusion of social determinants of health in national policies and programs;
6. **Further invite** APA member Parliaments to develop a cross-sectoral collaboration for the advancement of health equity in Asia through comprehensive training and study exchanges on social determination of health (SDH) among policy makers and related stake holders;

7. **Urge** the APA Member Parliaments to adopt policies and measures to improve service provision, and health financing system including social protection system as well as health insurance plans for a more equitable resource distribution;
8. **Call on** Member Parliaments of APA to encourage their respective governments in order to establish networking among major governmental and non-governmental institutions dealing with health issues in Asia, and expand cooperation with academic institutions, non-governmental organizations, civil society groups and the media with adequate safeguard in order to identify the main social determinants of health;
9. **Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to persuade their respective governments to create and implement more sharpened and targeted policies, activities, and programs to ensure a success in the achievement of SDGs including universal health coverage with regard to health policies; and promoting access to quality, efficacious, safe and affordable medicines and medical technologies;
10. **Call on** APA Member Parliaments to take necessary actions and to encourage their respective governments to ensure child nutrition needs with a focus on equity in order to create better a generation;
11. **Determine** to take active part on the discussion of post-2030 development agenda by delivering Asian views in the international arena to drive the global agenda;
12. **Encourage** the APA Member Parliaments to actively participate in the process of arriving at common objectives which could form the basis of national legislations promoting health equity in Asia, with due attention to equitable social protection policies for health care, long term disability, and protection during unemployment and old age, as appropriate in the national context and priorities;
13. **Request** Member Parliaments to inform the Secretary-General on the progress made on the implementation of this resolution in their respective countries in order to share them with all Member Parliaments.



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

APA/ Res/2017/18  
23 November 2017

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

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

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

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

**Taking note** of the importance of ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and the Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers;

**Acknowledging** the significance of ILO Conventions concerning the protection of the rights of migrant workers as well as UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking In Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime – 2000 in promoting human rights of Asian migrant workers without prejudice to their sex, race, language, religion, nationality, or ethnic origin;

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

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

***Deeply concerned*** with the precarious conditions faced by migrant workers such as human rights abuse, harassment and violence, discrimination, low pay and low status jobs, unpaid jobs, and overwork;

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

***Recognizing*** that unsettled status of immigrants prevents the establishment of conditions for full scale and comprehensive protection of their right by governments of sending and receiving countries;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to consider accession to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families to stress Asian commitment on the protection of the rights of migrant workers and humanitarian issues in Asia;
2. **Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to enhance and harmonize their actions towards a better protection of migrant workers, especially women and children;
3. **Request** APA sending countries to provide migrant workers with adequate skills and knowledge in order to be able to fulfill their task and understand the culture, prevailing laws and regulation in the receiving countries;
4. **Urge** APA Member Parliaments to ensure that their domestic laws shall be fair and just, equally applicable to both migrant workers and citizens who violate the laws;
5. **Encourage** the promotion of bilateral and regional cooperation among countries in all areas and issues of migrant workers to maximize the potential benefits and minimize the negative impacts of migration;
6. **Encourage** the respective States of the APA Member Parliaments to consider bilateral, or regional agreements including Mandatory Consular Notification Agreement under the spirit of Vienna Convention on Consular Relations; whereby the sending countries are well informed on the legal problems faced by their migrant workers;
7. **Emphasize** the importance of involving civil society, non-government organizations, and increasing their opportunity for participation and interaction with stakeholders to develop better policies and supervise the implementation of regulations on migrant workers issues;
8. **Recommend** APA Member Parliaments to provide adequate information on regulation, legislation and policies related to migrant workers in their respective countries, and to share information and best practices as well as opportunities and challenges encountered by Asian countries in relation to the protection and promotion of migrant workers' rights and welfare;
9. **Urge** the APA relevant member countries to promote fair and proper working conditions, proper minimum wages, and adequate access to decent living conditions for migrant workers.
10. **Request** the Secretary-General to coordinate with APA Member Parliaments on the progress to implement this resolution and submit a report thereon to the meeting of the Standing committee on Social and Cultural Affairs.



## Resolution on Asian Parliamentarians Against Corruption

APA/ Res/2017/19  
23 November 2017

*We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. **Condemn** corruption at all levels and in all its forms, including bribery; money laundering; and abuse of power;
2. **Express** determination to prevent and combat corrupt practices in all forms and collaborate on facilitating asset recovery and returning such assets to their legitimate owners, in particular to countries of origin, in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption;
3. **Welcome** the significant number of Member States that have already ratified or acceded to the Convention, and in this regard urges all APA Member Parliaments that

have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the United Nations Convention against Corruption as a matter of priority, and urges all States parties to the Convention to take appropriate measures ensuring its full and effective implementation;

4. **Decide** to set up a working group under the auspices of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs to further consider the APA Plan of Action on Combating Corruption contained in APA/Res/2007/05/ Annex with a view to taking effective measures for enhancing synergy and interactions among Asian Parliamentarians in fighting corruption.
5. **Consider** to improve and expand working relations with important Asian organizations such as ARPAC, SEAPAC, SAPAC, and GOPAC Chapter in order to enhance synergy and areas for cooperation and joint initiatives;
6. **Urges** States parties to United Nations Convention against Corruption that have not already done so to designate a central authority that shall have the responsibility and power to receive requests for mutual legal assistance and either to execute them or to transmit them to the competent authorities for execution;
7. **Request** the Secretary-General to prepare in consultation with interested APA Delegations, particularly APA delegates with interest and experience in anti-corruption efforts, the required draft documents for consideration by the working group set up in this respect;
8. **Request** also the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member Parliaments on implementation of this resolution.



## Resolution on APA Women Parliamentarians

APA/ Res/2017/20  
23 November 2017

*We, members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,*

**Recalling** the APA Plenary Resolution (APA/Res/2010/06, 30 November, 2010) on the establishment of the Coordinating Meeting of APA Women Parliamentarians;

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

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

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

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

**Mindful** of the necessity to put on the agenda of APA meetings matters of importance to women such as combating violence against women, empowerment of women in society, participation of women in political life, and prevention of all kind of harassments, sexual violence against women and girls, including in situation of armed conflicts if applicable;

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

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

1. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to ensure the inclusion and effective participation of women in social, cultural, economic, political, and sustainable

development affairs in Asia, at national, regional, and international levels as appropriate.

2. **Encourage** Member Parliaments to adopt legislative regulations to facilitate women's representations in Asian Parliaments;
3. **Recommend** the inclusion of at least one woman parliamentarian in APA delegations;
4. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to recognize the concerns of women, and to effectively implement the relevant provisions of United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) which promote gender equality and empowerment, sustainable and inclusive economic growth, full and productive employment, and building accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.
5. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to recognize that gender equality and empowerment of women must be established as a standing-alone goal and must be achieved simultaneously with *goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)*;
6. **Determine** to enhance the activities of the Coordinating Meeting of APA Women Parliamentarian through more effective exchange of views and close interaction;
7. **Require** the Special Committee of APA Women Parliamentarians to expand the scope of its activities under the auspices of Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs and to take appropriate measures to facilitate networking among women parliamentarians in Asia;
8. **Request** the APA Secretariat to assign one part of the website of the Assembly to facilitate networking among women parliamentarians of Asia covering updated information on the activities of the APA Women Parliamentarians;
9. **Express** concern at the dire situation of millions of women in all war-torn and conflict-ridden areas such as Palestine, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Myanmar, and Afghanistan who are in danger of violence, killing, rape, and captivity;
10. **Request** the Secretary-General seek the views of Member parliaments on this resolution and submit a report thereon to the next meeting of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs.



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

APA/ Res/2017/21  
23 November 2017

*We the members of Asian Parliamentary Assembly,*

**Recalling** with appreciation various global, regional and sub-regional initiatives on mutual understanding and interfaith harmony including the United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/65/PV.34, and also resolution 57/6 of 4 November 2002 concerning the promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, the International Conference on Environment, Peace and the Dialogue among Civilizations and Cultures, held in Tehran on 9 and 10 May 2005, the Asia-Europe Meeting Interfaith Dialogue on the theme "Building Interfaith Harmony within the International Community", held in Bali, Indonesia, on 21 and 22 July 2005, the High Level Conference on International and Inter-Religious Dialogue, held in Saint Petersburg, Russia on 3 and 4 July 2014, and the sixth global Forum of the United Nations alliance of Civilizations, held in Bali, Indonesia on 29 and 30 August 2014;

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

**Recognizing** the essential role of dialogue among different faiths and religions in enhancing mutual collaboration, harmony and cooperation among nations of the world;

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

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

- 1. Urge** all parliaments to support and spread the message of interfaith harmony and goodwill, as such mutual understanding constitutes important dimensions of the dialogue among civilizations and of the culture of peace;

2. **Maintain** that a regular dialogue between the parliaments of APA could become an effective supplement for addressing the challenges of international ongoing conflicts based on religious differences and discrepancies;
3. **Denounce** stereotyping of any religious, national or ethnic group and condemn any intentional and unintentional activity that leads towards the division between the followers of different faiths;
4. **Urge** all Member Parliaments to harmonize their efforts in promulgating laws and legislations in Asia for improved standards of cooperation between the nations to enhance the patience for the religious beliefs of others;
5. **Declare** that terrorism, extremism and violence have no religion nor any borders, as these are common enemy of all humanity;
6. **Consider** any form of xenophobia based on belief, faith or ethnic adherence contrary to the merits of inter-faith dialogue has no place in the community of civilized nations;
7. **Encourage** parliaments of APA to exert their utmost effort for providing a respective national legal instrument, with aim of creating a conducive atmosphere for inter-faith dialogue and cooperation as well harmony among world religions;
8. **Deplore**, in the strongest terms, all atrocities and acts of violence, committed by extremist and terrorist groups under the guise of Islam which hold no authentic reference to Islamic principles and no legitimacy among Muslims all around the world, and call upon all states to refrain from providing any support to such groups;
9. **Condemn** the misuse and distortion of religious beliefs, by extremist groups and their followers, which inflame intra-faith as well as inter-faith hatred and hold them accountable for instigation of ill-judgment, violence, and brutality against other faithful people;
10. **Call Upon** the international community to be cognizant of humanitarian situations in Asia;
11. **Urge** all Member Parliaments to intensify their efforts in utilizing parliamentary diplomacy for the development of international and regional frameworks to promote best practices which leads towards the inter faith harmony and collaboration;
12. **Request** the Secretary-General to seek the views as well as measures taken by APA Member Parliaments to implement this resolution and to report thereon to the next meeting of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs.



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

APA/ Res/2017/22  
23 November 2017

*We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,*

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

**Expressing** support for the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2199 prohibiting the smuggling of cultural items by terrorist groups, including from Iraq and Syria;

**Welcoming** the important and active role that the UN, Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and FATF-style regional bodies play in countering money laundering and terrorist financing linked to trade in smuggled artifacts, in particular, in Asia;

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

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

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

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

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

1. **Urge** all APA Member Parliaments to utilize their legislative powers to prevent and punish the smuggling of cultural objects in Asia and facilitate concerted efforts to return the stolen items back to their original locations without any cost to the original owner country;
2. **Call on** all APA member parliaments that have not yet done so to consider ratifying the International Convention for the Safeguarding of World Natural and Cultural Heritage, and the International Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage;

3. **Request** all APA Member Parliaments to consider and contribute to drafting of a common legislation on protecting and safeguarding cultural objects and combating all forms and aspects of trafficking cultural property and related offences to be enacted on the basis of the principles prepared by APA Secretariat and annexed to this resolution, and in accordance with their own internal legislative procedures;
4. **Request** the Secretary-general to follow up preparation of a common legislation on combating the smuggling of cultural items in Asia by APA Member Parliaments.

### **Annex**

#### **Principles for Drafting Common Legislation by Asian Parliaments Concerning the Smuggling of Cultural Items**

1. Lawful exchange of cultural and historical properties enriches cultural and social existence of nations; strengthens mutual respect and leads to amity and friendship among them;
2. Movable cultural heritage of every nation is considered as fundamental elements of culture and civilization of that nation, and an integral part of regional and human culture and civilization and thus necessitates regional cooperation to fight theft and smuggling of cultural properties.
3. Protection and safeguarding of historical cultural properties from the perils of unlawful excavations, theft and smuggling, is inter alia the duty of the governments.
4. Clandestine excavations in archeological sites, theft, illicit import and export of cultural properties constitutes as one of the main reasons for the cultural impoverishment of the countries of the origin of these objects.
5. Establishment and strengthening of a proper system of management to protect immovable cultural heritage and reinforce coordination and cooperation among concerned institutions for combating theft and smuggling of cultural properties.
6. Documentation, preparation and completion of an inventory of national cultural properties.
7. Proper supervision over archeological excavations, standardization of the means to protect cultural items at the site of discovery.
8. Taking educational steps to enhance public awareness on the necessity of protecting cultural objects.
9. Encouraging and developing the educational, scientific and technical institutions required for protecting cultural items, expanding museums, supporting cooperation and exchanging cultural objects among museums in Asian countries.
10. Issuing special permit for those cultural objects the export of which is authorized; and thwarting illicit import and export of cultural items with no permit, and restitution thereof to the country of origin.
11. Promoting international cooperation to combat smuggling of cultural items with the countries of origin on restitution of cultural properties as well as extradition of those charged with theft and smuggling of cultural items.
12. Stress on the inalienable right of every country concerning classification and declaring as non-transferable certain cultural properties and preventing entry into the national territory of those items.



## **Resolution on Effective Cooperation in Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking in Asia**

APA/ Res/2017/23  
23 November 2017

*We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,*

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

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

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

**Emphasizing** that the danger of illicit drug trafficking is so pervasive that may undermine international peace, security, and stability and there is an urgent need to mobilize efforts of all countries to curb the production of opium and heroin in Afghanistan and to dismantle networks of illicit drug trafficking from that country;

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

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

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

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

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

**Expressing** the need to increase international and regional support for the capacity building of law-enforcement agencies in Afghanistan, and to intensify training programs for Afghan law-enforcement staff;

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

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

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

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

**Emphasizing** the need to assist Afghanistan in developing its economy and diversifying agriculture so as to reduce dependence on revenues from the illicit drugs trafficking, in line with the Lima Declaration and International Guiding Principles on Alternative Development (November 2012);

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

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

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

1. **Call upon** Asian Parliaments to coordinate among themselves to review relevant legislation to address different aspects of combating illicit drug trafficking by harmonizing laws and making minimum punishment stronger;
2. **Call upon** Asian Parliaments to adopt laws on extradition of convicted persons on terrorism and illicit drug trafficking to their countries of origin for fair trial based on national legislations

3. **Stress** the need to exchange information and best practices within APA Member Parliaments on combating illicit drug trafficking;
4. **Reiterate** the need to coordinate and improve law enforcement activities to combat the production and trafficking of narcotic drugs and curtailing the flow of illicit drug more effectively;
5. **Underline** the importance of effectively using international financial assistance for the creation of alternative economic opportunities in order to ensure a sustainable anti-drug policy;
6. **Call upon** APA Asian Parliaments to enable civil society as an effective partner of parliaments and to enhance the role of mass media in combating drug trafficking in Asia;
7. **Encourage** all APA member Parliaments to support their respective governments in order to coordinate with international and regional organizations including the United Nations (UN) to combat the threats of international terrorism, illicit drug trafficking, transnational organized crime and legalization of income derived from criminal activity;
8. **Urge** that a regular dialogue on supporting joint actions of Asian governments against abovementioned threats within APA could become an effective supplement for addressing the challenges of international illicit drug trafficking and transnational organized crime in the region;
9. **Express** our commitment to encourage and enhance cooperation with all relevant states and international and regional organizations, on matters of common interest in the spirit of this resolution on rendering assistance to combat illicit drug trafficking;
10. **Encourage** networking of the relevant national agencies or organizations in Asia dealing with transnational crimes to further enhance information dissemination and intelligence exchange;
11. **Request** the Secretary General to seek the views of all Member parliaments on ways and means for effective implementation of this resolution.



## **Resolution on Humanitarian Aid to Syria, Iraq, Yemen, And Myanmar on The Verge of the Humanitarian Catastrophe**

APA/ Res/2017/24  
23 November 2017

*We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,*

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

**Recalling** UN Security Council resolutions 2139 and 2165;

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

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

- 1. Call upon** APA member-states to:
- 2. Deliver** humanitarian support to Syrian, Iraqi, Yemeni and Myanmar civilians across conflict lines and border crossings both multilaterally and bilaterally in accordance with UN General Assembly Resolution 46/182.
- 3.** Support efforts of countries that host refugees and humanitarian aid and recommend to take every effort to facilitate aid delivery in Iraq, Syria, Yemen, and Myanmar;
- 4. Encourage** all relevant parties to further allow UN humanitarian agencies and their partners to utilize routes across conflict lines and border crossings in Syria in accordance with UN General Assembly resolution 46/182 and UN Security Council resolutions 2139 and 2165;
- 5. Provide** assistance to Iraq, Syrian, Yemeni and Myanmar internally displaced persons and refugees, deprived of basic needs and desperate in search of shelter;
- 6. Condemn** any attempt in violation of International Humanitarian Law to block humanitarian delivery aid in Syria, Iraq, Yemen, and Myanmar.



APA/ Decision/2017/01  
23 November 2017

**APA Decision**  
**on**  
**Granting Observer Status to the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the**  
**Member Parliaments of Commonwealth Independence States (IPA CIS)**  
**and Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic-Speaking Countries (TurkPA)**

Recalling the principles and objectives enshrined in APA Charter, and Upon the request of the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the Member Parliaments of Commonwealth Independence States and Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic-Speaking Countries (TurkPA) and recognizing that APA and these organizations share many objectives, including promotion of mutual understanding and trust among member nations and strengthening cooperation in all fields throughout Asia, the 10<sup>th</sup> APA Plenary decides to grant the Observer Status to the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the Member Parliaments of Commonwealth Independence States (IPA CIS) and Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic-Speaking Countries (TurkPA). APA Secretariat will reciprocally apply for the same position in the both parliamentary organizations.

ANNEX – XXIV

**List of participants in the 10th APA Plenary**

	<b>Country</b>	<b>Name</b>
1	<b>Afghanistan</b>	Abdul RAOUF IBRAHIMI
		ABDUL Wahid Faqir ZADA
		Habiba SADAT
		Sayed M. Jamal Fakaouri BEHISHTI
		Said Farooq OMER
		Abdullah IBRAHIMI
		Ahmad Wahid ZAMAN
		Junid IBRAHIMI
		Samiullah HUSSAINI
		Mohammad Zabed Nayil AFGHAN
2	<b>Azerbaijan</b>	Mammadov ILHAM
		Ali-Zada MIR-KAMAL
3	<b>Bahrain</b>	Ahmed Bin Ebrahim ALMULLA
		Mohamed ALKHOZAIE
		Abbas ALMADHI
		Ahmed QARATA
		Fuad ALHAJEE
		Mohamed ALAMMADI
		Mahmeed ALMAHMEED
		Nayef ALJASIM
4	<b>Bangladesh</b>	Shahab UDDIN
		Abu ZAHIR
		Mohammed Shamsul Haque BHUIYAN
		Mohammed Hasan Imam KHAN
		Syed Najibul Bazhar MAIZVANDARY
		Abdul Majid KAHN
		Enamul HOQUE
		Anwara HAQUE
		Asm Humayun KABIR
5	<b>Bhutan</b>	Chimi DORJI
		Novin DARLAMI
		Jigme WANGCHUK
6	<b>Cambodia</b>	NHEL NGOAN
		Kimyeat CHHIT
		Thavy NHEM
		Dara SRUN
		Reasey NGUON
		Heang THUL
		Bunly HOK
		Prakath PEN
		Sophearith OUM
		Saravy DUONG
		Rithypanha SOEUNG
San SOKHOM		

7	<b>China</b>	Zhao SHAOHUA
		He YEHUI
		Wang AIHUA
		Wu DAN
		Li YUCIU
		Wang YUYU
		Jin LINLIN
8	<b>Cyprus</b>	Nicos TORNARITIS
		Christakis TZIOVANIS
		Loukia MOUYI
		Christiana SOLOMONIDOU
9	<b>DPR Korea</b>	JONG HYOK RI
		CHUNG SONG KIM
		HYON CHOL RI
		NAM HYOK KIM
		HAK SONG KIM
10	<b>India</b>	Bhartruhari MAHTAB
		Kunwar BHARTENDRA
		Rimjhim Prasad
11	<b>Indonesia</b>	NURHAYATI ALIASSEGAF
		ROFI MUNAWAR
		NAZARUDIN KIEMAS
		Lyna Soetidewi KIEMAS
		ANDI ACHMAD DARA
		Evi Yulisma HARAHAHAP
		VENNA MELINDA
		JON ERIZAL
		AMELIA ANGGRAINI
		ARIEF SUDITOMO
		CHAIRIL PATRIA
		ENDANG DWI ASTUTI
		AHMADI ...
		Avina Nadhila WIDARSA
		Habibi MAHABBAH
		Melisa Dian PUTRI
		Rizal Risnaadhi WIRAKARA
Panca HENDARTO		
12	<b>Iran</b>	Ali ARDESHIRLARIJANI
		Ali KAZEMIBABAHEIDARI
		Mohsen KOOKANRIZI
		Jalil JAHANABADI
		Seyedehfatemeh ZOLGHADR
		Hajar CHENARANI
		Syedmuhammad YASREBI
		Mohammad TAVAKOLIABANDANSARI
		Reza SAMADI
		Davood IMANI
		Hassan GHASHGHAVI
		Mohammad JAFARI
		Hossein AMIRABDOLLAHIAN

		Seyedmorteza RAZAVIANI
		Mohammadreza SAHRAEI
		Alireza YOUSEFI
		awa
		Naser GHARAMANIJANGLOO
		Jalal ABOUHASSANICHIMEH
		Mohammad NOKHBEHZARE
		Javad FARDI
		Alireza MOHSENI
		Sajad REZAPOURTAKALDAN
		Mjtaba DEGHANIFIROUZABADI
		Davood HEIDARINEJADMAYANI
		Seyedhamed HOSSEINIMIHAMMADI
		Javad KARBALAEILALANI
		Mohammadreza MORADI
		Asghar PASHAPOUR
		Rasoul SAFAEI
		Ruhulla SOIZI
		Malek MOHAMADZADEHTOUR
		Shahram FARHADI
		Shadi MAKI
		Sadeg RAJABI
		Mohammadzeza ZARANDOUSH
		Mahdi MEMARIAN
		Faezeh ZAHIRI
		Mohammadreza REZAEIZIARANI
		Pantea RANJBARMOHAMMADI
		Masoud FARTOUSI
		Behnam KHORSHIDI
13	<b>Iraq</b>	Abdulbari AL-ZEBARY
		Hanan MOHSIN
		Razzaq JASIM
		Hilal ODHAIB
		Louis BANDAR
		Mostafa AL-YACOUBI
14	<b>Jordan</b>	Naif AL-HADID
		Ahmed AL-REKP
		Barakat ALNIMER
		Samer ALADWAN
		Naser ALNEEF
15	<b>Kazakhstan</b>	Darkhan KALETAYEV
		Manap KUBENOV
		Alibek NIYETBAYEV
16	<b>Kuwait</b>	Marzouq AL-GHANIM
		Khalil ABUL
		Waleed AL-TABTABAE
		Odah AL-ROWAIE
		Rakan AL-NUSEF
		Alhumaidi ALSUBAIE
		Abdullah ALAWADHI

		Jamal AL-MANEEFI
		Amer ABDULLAH FARDAN
		Hussain MUHAMMAD BADER
		Nasser ALDHUWAIHI
		Mohammad ALDUWAIWAN
		Sulaiman ALSAMHAN
		Naser ALMUTAIRI
		Meslet ALSUBAIE
		Abdulaziz NASRALLAH
		Mubarak ALAJMI
		Meshal ALANEZI
		Talal ALHARBAN
		Tariq AL-EIDAN
		Bader ALMOTAWAA
		Tereq MUBARAK
17	<b>Kyrgyzstan</b>	Anvar ARTYKOV
		Ilkhom MANNANOV
18	<b>Laos</b>	Khenthong NUANTHASING
		Anypath KEOLA
19	<b>Lebanon</b>	Kassem HACHEM
		Antoine SAAD
20	<b>Mongolia</b>	Bukhchuluun PUREVDORJ
		Tsolmon TSEDEV
21	<b>Pakistan</b>	Mushahid Hussain SAYED
		Muhammad Arshad Jan PATHAN
22	<b>Palestine</b>	ZUHAİR SANDUQA
		EMRAN AL-KHATİB
		HAMED EBEİDO
		OMAR HAMAYEL
23	<b>Russia</b>	MIKHAIL EMELIANOV
		ALEXEY LYASCHENKO
		Ekaterina BALAEVA
		ZUGURA RAHMATULLINA
		YULIA GUSKOVA
		SVETLANA SHELEST
		Stepan ZHIRIAKOV
		Rafail ZINUROV
		Olga SHMACHKOVA
		Veronika BELOUSOVA
24	<b>Saudi Arabia</b>	Abdullah ALSHEIKH
		Hani KHASHOGGI
		Obaid ALSHAREEF
		Fatimah ALQARNI
		Khalid ALMANSOUR
		Abdulaziz ALZHRANI
		Yazeed ALSEHAIM
		Yasser ALOBEISI
		Khalid ALDOSARI
		Sultan ALFAHAD
25	<b>Tajikistan</b>	Khayriniso Yusufi

		Kodirova Musallam Asomuddinovna
		Salilova Munavar
26	<b>Thailand</b>	Nipat THONGLEK
		Suwannee SIRIVEJCHAPUN
		Chuchart BOONCHAI
		Pornpith PHETCHAREON
		Boontarika JUNHANANDANA
		Panya KOTTEHEN
		Sanan SIRIBOON
		Ratanavadee THONGLEK
27	<b>Turkey</b>	Burhan KAYATÜRK
		Burhanettin UYSAL
		Kemalettin YILMAZTEKİN
		Bariş KARADENİZ
		Garo PAYLAN
28	<b>United Arab Emirates</b>	Hamad ALGHFELI
		Azza AL MALIK
		Nedal ALTENEIJI
		Ahmed ALDHAERI
		Salama ALSHEHHI
		Sultan ALSHEHHI
29	<b>Uzbekistan</b>	N.T.YULDASHEV
		R.R.KAKIMOV
		S.S.MIRZAKHUJAEV
30	<b>Vietnam</b>	Cuong Nguyen SI
		Yen Le THI