

Asian Parliamentary Assembly

Secretary-General



No. SG/2020/45
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To: All APA members

Subj: Conduct of Future Virtual Meetings

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing with reference to the APA First Virtual meeting successfully held in Ankara, Turkey, the President on 9 July 2020. I also wish to thank those member Parliaments who actively participated in this exercise and contributed to the letter and spirit of this important event.

It goes without saying that due to ongoing global Coronavirus pandemic and until the normalcy is prevailed, we are left with no choice but to work out new strategies consistent with current situation for addressing our own organizational Agenda, just like other regional and international bodies

Noting that, the four APA Standing Committees on Cultural, Economic, Budget and Political Affair are to hold their annual meetings to consider and adopt the respective resolutions, nevertheless, under the present circumstances, it seems unlikely to be able to hold physical meeting in coming future. As an active parliamentary organization APA cannot stand still until the deadly Virus is contained globally. Therefore, I venture to propose holding meetings of Standing Committees virtually (with limited scope) in the hope of getting prepared for the right time to hold real meetings in future.

The idea is to plan for a PrepCom (i.e. Preparatory Committee) meeting during which member Parliaments will have the opportunity to address relevant Documents/Resolutions related to each Standing Committee and present their remarks/amendments to such documents. The APA Secretariat will compile and incorporate them into related documents. As a result of such an exercise, we will have all documents ready to be addressed by real meetings of Standing Committees once they are conditioned to be held.

Last but not least, each Virtual meeting needs to adopt its own Model of Conduct of the meeting. We called on member Parliaments to address this issue during the APA First Virtual meeting in Ankara. Having benefitted from Views expressed by a number of Members, especially those of UAE and Kuwait delegations, APA Secretariat has drafted the attached Model of Conduct of APA Virtual meetings. I request you to give your thoughts on this Model, designed to be considered as the first Agenda item of each Virtual meeting.

I will shortly be in touch with distinguished Vice-Presidents in charge of hosting the Standing Committees to coordinate for our future Virtual meetings.

Regards,

Dr. M.R. MAJIDI
APA Secretary General

Modality for Conducting APA Virtual meetings

Noting that it is unlikely to be able to hold APA meetings physically due to global Coronavirus pandemic, the following principles shall govern virtual meetings:

- Host country will chair the meetings and is responsible for all technical/IT issues.
- The widely used Media Platform with high quality and the time frame of the meeting will be introduced by the host country so as to be most convenient for all. The Platform link/username/password should be provided three days before date of the meeting.
- Virtual meetings for Standing Committees are solely held for preparation of the physical meetings.
- Participants are requested to present their views/amendments on each draft resolution within one general statement.
- Each delegation will have 5-7 minutes to present its views.
- Participants shall speak on alphabetical order.
- There will be no debates on such statements made at the meeting. Consideration and exchanges of views on draft resolutions will be done once the condition for holding physical meetings is made available.
- The deadline for submission of proposed amendments to the APA Secretariat is ten days before the meeting.
- A week before the meeting, the Secretariat will distribute the Agenda, Program of Work and amended draft resolutions.
- English language is the official working language.
- The quorum of the meeting will be 1/3 of APA members.
- Delegations are requested to identify the name of the speaking parliamentarian at least one day in advance.