



Asian Parliamentary Assembly

Final Report of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs

13-14 February 2019
Bangkok, the Kingdom of Thailand

SC- Social&Cultural/Rep/2019/01
14 February 2019

The Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs of Asian Parliamentary Assembly was held on 13- 14 February 2019 in Bangkok, the Kingdom of Thailand. Parliamentary delegations from following member countries participated in the meeting:

Bahrain, Bhutan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Lao PDR, Maldives, Mongolia, Pakistan, Palestine, Russia, Syria, Thailand, Turkey, UAE and Vietnam. ([Attachment I](#)).

Advisory council member of Qatar attended the meeting as observer.

Inaugural Ceremony:

After playing National Anthem of Kingdom of Thailand, H.E. Gen. Nipat Thonglek, Member of the Thai National Legislative Assembly and Chairperson of the Steering Committee on hosting the Meeting delivered his welcoming remarks. ([Attachment II](#)).

H.E. Mohammad Reza Majidi, APA Secretary General took the floor and delivered his remarks. ([Attachment III](#)).

The Representative of APA President, Mrs. Asuman Erdogan also addressed the audience. ([Attachment IV](#)).

Finally, H.E. Prof. Pornpetch Wichitcholchai, President of the Thai National Legislative Assembly presented his opening and welcoming remarks. ([Attachments V](#))

1. Adoption of the Agenda:

The Draft Agenda of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs was adopted unanimously by the Member Parliaments. Agenda and Program of Work ([Attachments VI](#)).

2. Election of the Bureau:

The following members of the Bureau were unanimously elected:

H.E. Gen. Nipat Thonglek, member of the Thai National Legislative Assembly as chairperson,

H.E. Mrs. Asuman Erdogan head of parliamentary delegation of Turkey, as Vice-chair

H.E. Mr. Bukhchuluun, PUREVDORJ, head of parliamentary delegation of Mongolia, as Rapporteur.

3. Opening remarks by Chairperson:

The chairperson presented his opening remarks.

4. Report of Secretary-General:

APA Secretary-General Reported on implementation of the present Draft Resolutions and consideration of proposals to be presented by Member Parliaments. ([Attachment VII](#)).

5. The meeting of APA Women Parliamentarians:

Based on APA /Res/2014/16 to establish Special Committee of APA women parliamentarians under the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs, the meeting was opened by H.E. Gen. Nipat Thonglek.

The following member parliaments spoke on the agenda item and presented their views: Thailand, Iran, Pakistan, Palestine, Iraq, Kuwait, Bahrain, Jordan, Russia and Indonesia.

6. Consideration and discussion on New Draft Resolutions:

The Chairman informed the delegations that the following new draft resolutions are presented by the Thai delegation:

- Draft resolution on the Promotion of Quality Child and Youth Development for Sustainable Society in Asia,
- Draft resolution on Ageing Society in Asia.

He also stated that the delegation of Kuwait has offered the draft resolution on Building the Asian Individual. The title of this resolution was later changed to: “Human Development in Asia” with the consent of the Kuwaiti delegation.

The Thai and Kuwait members of the parliaments presented the concepts behind each three resolutions. The Chairman asked the Committee to adopt these new draft resolutions in principal and defer its discussion to the future meeting. The Chairman stated that, as a standard procedure, the amendments by delegations who have not attended the meeting will not be discussed.

7. Consideration and recommendation of Draft Resolutions:

The following ten draft resolutions were discussed in detail, incorporating the amendments by member parliaments and were unanimously adopted:

- 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.

The Committee requested the Secretariat to inform the member parliaments one and a half month prior to the date of the meeting for submission of their recommendations and amendments to the draft resolutions. The Secretariat is requested to incorporate the amendments and upload the final version of the draft resolutions within one week of the above-mentioned deadline.

On Draft Resolution on Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers in Asia, a few delegates disassociated themselves from the preamble paragraph 5.

A few delegations addressed the titles of the following draft resolutions and argued that their wordings should be amended. The representative of the Secretariat stated that such titles are endorsed by the APA General Assembly and any alteration has to be done through their consent.

- Draft resolution on Protection and Promotion of the Rights of

Migrant Workers in Asia,

- 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.

The member of the delegation of Iraq informed the Committee of the readiness of the Iraqi parliament to host the upcoming meeting of the Standing Committee on Staff and Financial Regulations during month of April 2019 in Baghdad, and invited APA member parliaments to attend this meeting.

The Head of Russian parliamentary delegation also expressed the readiness of the Russian Duma to host the Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development during month of July 2019 in Moscow.

Attachment I

14 Feb. 2019



ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
The Meeting of the APA Standing Committee
on Social and Cultural Affairs
13-14 February 2019
Bangkok, the Kingdom of Thailand



List of Participants

Member Parliaments

Bahrain

Dr.Mohamed Ali ALKHOZAI
Mr.Hamad Ahmed ALKOOHEJI
Mr.Mohamed Bin DAINA

Member of Shura Council/Head of the Delegation
Member of Council of Representatives
Parliamentary Relations Development Specialist,
Council of Representatives,
Secretary to the Delegation

Bhutan

Mr.Lhatu NIL
Mr.Choki GYELTSHEN
Ms.Sonam LHAMO

Member of Parliament/Head of the Delegation
Member of Parliament
Chief Information and Media Officer,
Secretary to the Delegation

Cambodia

Mr.Suos YARA

Vice-Chairman of Commission of
Foreign Affairs, International
Cooperation, Information and
Media of the National Assembly/
Head of the Delegation

Mr.Chan NARETH

Vice-Chairman of Commission on
Planning, Investment, Agriculture,
Rural Development, Environment
and Water Resources of the Senate

Mr.Nguon SOCHEATH

Member of Commission of
Foreign Affairs, International
Cooperation, Information and
Media of the National Assembly
Deputy Director of International
Relations Department

Mr.Hok BUNLY

Director of General Research
Department

Mr.Kim SOCHETRA

Deputy Chief of Multilateral
Relations Office

Mr.Seng THY

India

Ms.Sudhi CHOUDHARY

First Secretary
Embassy of the Republic of India in Bangkok
Attaché

Mr.Anil SINGH

Embassy of the Republic of India in Bangkok

The Meeting of the APA Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs,
13-14 February 2019, Bangkok, Thailand

Indonesia

Mrs.Dwi Ria LATIFA	Member of the Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation of the House of Representatives/ Member of Parliament/Head of the Delegation
Mr.Aryo DJOJHADIKUSUMO	Member of the Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation of the House of Representatives/ Member of Parliament Advisor to the Delegation Secretary to the Delegation Accompanying person of Mr.Aryo DJOJHADIKUSUMO Counsellor
Mr.Heriyono Adi ANGGORO	Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Bangkok
Mr.Wiryawan Narendro PUTRO	Third Secretary
Mrs.Kurosu SACHI	Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Bangkok
Mr.Abdullah ZULKIFLI	Analyst
Mr.Dino ANGGARA	Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Bangkok
Mr.Sulaeman NAROWI	

Iran

Dr.Seyedeh Fatemeh ZOLGHADR	Member of Islamic Parliament of Iran/ Head of the Delegation
Dr.Mohsen KOOHKAN	Member of Islamic Parliament of Iran
Dr.Hajar CHENARANI RIZI	Member of Islamic Parliament of Iran
Mrs.Zahra MORADI	Expert
Mr.Reza HASSANI	Secretary to the Delegation
Ms.Pantea RANJBAR	Interpreter/Protocol
Mr.Mohsen MOHAMMADI	Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Mr.Ali Jameh BOZORG	Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Bangkok Third Secretary (Political) Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Bangkok

Iraq

Mr.Malhan AL-MGOTAR	Member of Parliament/Foreign Relations Committee/Head of the Delegation
Dr.Aliab ABBAS	Member of Parliament, Foreign Relations Committee
Mr.Mustafa Fadhil ABBAS	Secretary to the Delegation
Ms.Marwah AL-HALLAF	Personal Secretary

Jordan

Mr.Naif Al-HADID	Member of the Jordan Senate/ Head of the Delegation
Mr.Khaled Al FANATSEH	Member of the Jordan Parliament
Mr.Ahmad El LOZI	Member of the Jordan Parliament
Mr.Qassem MOHEADAT	Administrator
Mr.Hazem ALAZZAM	Secretary to the the Delegation

Kazakhstan	
Mr.Alimzhan KURTAYEV	Member of the Senate of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan/Head of the Delegation
Mr.Madi SHAKENOV	Official from the Senate of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan
H.E.Ms.Raushan YESBULATOVA	Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Bangkok
Mr.Timur AKHMETZHANOV	Conseller Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Bangkok
Kiribati	
Mr.Ieremia TABAI	Member of Parliament/ Head of the Delegation
Mr.Tianeti IOANE BEENNA	Member of Parliament
Mrs.Marabu IOANE	Accompanying person of Mr. Tianeti IOANE
Mr.George Ucantabo MACKENZIE	Parliamentary Counsel
Kuwait	
Dr.Khalil ABUL	Member of Parliament/Head of the Delegation
Mr.Ali ALDEQBASI	Member of Parliament
Mr.Abdulaziz NASRALLAH	Secretary to the Delegation
Mr.Saud ALRAQUM	Secretary to the Delegation
Mr.Abdullah ALAJMI	First Secretary
Mr.Abdullah T A A ALTURKI	Embassy of the State of Kuwait in Bangkok Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Mr.Ahmad ALANEZI	Embassy of the State of Kuwait in Bangkok Diplomatic Attaché
	Embassy of the State of Kuwait in Bangkok
Lao PDR	
Dr.Phonephet BOUPHA	Vice-Chairperson of the Social and Cultural Affairs Committee/Head of the Delegation
Ms.Ketmany BANDASACK	Member of National Assembly of Lao PDR
Ms.Kaysone KEOMANYKHOT	Head of Inter-Parliamentary Relations Division Secretary to the Delegation
Maldives	
Mr.Ali HUSSAIN	Member of Parliament/Head of the Delegation
Mr.Ahmed MARZOOG	Member of Parliament
Mr.Mohamed RASHEED	Assistant Secretary General
Mrs.Aishath FULHU	Accompanying person of Mr.Ali HUSSAIN
Mongolia	
Mr.Purevdorj BUKHCHULUUN	Member of Parliament/Head of the Delegation
Mr.Tsolmon TSEDEV	Secretary General
Mr.Tuvshinjargal ERDENE	Head of Legal Affairs Department
Mr.Tugsbilguun TUMURKHULEG	Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Embassy of Mongolia in Bangkok
Ms.Anuu ENKBOLD	Third Secretary Embassy of Mongolia in Bangkok

Pakistan

Ms.Sadiq NUZHAT	Senator/Head of the Delegation
Mr.Saif Muhammad ALI KHAN	Senator
Mr.Usman Khan TARAKAI	Member National Assembly of Pakistan
Mr.Salman MUHAMMAD0.	Assistant Director
Mr.Iftikhar Ahmad LUGHMANI	Joint Secretary, National Assembly of Pakistan
Mr.Muhammad ANWAR	Officer
Mr.Asiam AHMAD	Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
	Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Bangkok
Mr.Yasir BUTT	First Secretary
	Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Bangkok

Palestine

Mr.Emran AL-KHATIB	PNC Member/Head of the Delegation
Mr.Nayef MOHANNA	PNC Member

Russia

Mr.Mikhail EMELIANOV	First Deputy Chairperson of the State Duma on State Building and Legislation/Head of the Delegation
Mrs.Vera GANZIA	Member of the Committee of the State Duma on Budget and Taxes
Mr.Valery STAVIZKY	Secretary to the Delegation
Mr.Vitaly KISELEV	Interpreter
Mr.Andrey MEDVEDEV	Interpreter
Mr.Alexey SALNIKOV	Second Secretary
	Embassy of the Russian Federation in Bangkok

Syria

Mr.Basil ESSA	Member of Parliament/ Vice-Chair of Complaints and Oversight Committee/ Head of the Delegation
Mr.Khaldoun AWIS	Member of Parliament/ Vice-Chair of Local Administration and Urban Development Committee
Mr.Iyas BASHA	Public Relations

Thailand

Gen. Nipat THONGLEK	Member of National Legislative Assembly Leader of the Delegation
Pol. Gen. Pichit KUANDACHAKUPT	Member of National Legislative Assembly Delegate
Mrs.Suwannee SIRIVEJCHAPUN	Member of National Legislative Assembly Delegate
Mr.Vorapol SOCATIYANURAK	Member of National Legislative Assembly Delegate
Acm. Chuchart BOONCHAI	Member of National Legislative Assembly Delegate
Adm. Amorntep NA BANGCCHANG	Member of National Legislative Assembly Delegate

Gen. Veerun CHANTASATKOSOL	Member of National Legislative Assembly Delegate
Mrs.Kanchana PATARACHOKE	Director-General Department of International Organizations Ministry of Foreign Affairs Advisor to the Delegation
Ms.Usanee KANGWANJIT	Deputy Permanent Secretary Ministry of Social Development and Human Security Advisor to the Delegation
Mrs.Teppawan PORNAWALAI	Deputy Director-General Department of Children and Youth Ministry of Social Development and Human Security Advisor to the Delegation
Mrs.Ramrung WORAWAT	Deputy Director – General of the Department of Older Persons Ministry of Social Development and Human Security Advisor to the Delegation
Ms.Pawana AUNKASITH	Medical Doctor Expert Level, Ministry of Public Health Advisor to the Delegation
Mr.Thongtana PERMBOTASI	Director, Division of National Strategy and Reform, Ministry of Public Health Advisor to the Delegation
Dr.Sutada MEKRUNGRUENGKUL	Human Rights Expert to the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand Advisor to the Delegation
Prof. Dr. Surachart BAMRUNGSUK	International Relations expert Advisor to the Delegation
Prof. Dr. Chaiwat KAMCHOO	International Relations expert Advisor to the Delegation
Dr. Nongrat ISSARO	Plan and policy Analyst Advisor to the Delegation
Mr. Russdy KHANTANIT	Foreign Relations Officer Association of Parliaments and Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments Division Bureau of Inter – Parliamentary Organizations Secretariat of the House of Representatives Secretary to the Thai Delegation
Mr. Paradorn ARAWAN	Foreign Affairs Officer, AIPA Division, Bureau of Inter – Parliamentary Organizations Secretariat of the House of Representatives Assistant Secretary to the Thai Delegation
Miss Supisra KANKAEW	Foreign Affairs Officer, Inter-Parliamentary Union Division Bureau of Inter – Parliamentary Organizations Secretariat of the House of Representatives Assistant Secretary to the Thai Delegation

Turkey

Mrs.Asuman ERDOĞAN	Member of Parliament/Head of the Delegation
Mrs.Müşerref Pervin Tuba DURGUT	Member of Parliament
Mr.Gökmen TOPLU	Deputy Director of External Relations and Protocol Department of the Turkish Grand National Assembly
Mr.Murat HASTÜRK	Senior Officer of External Relations and Protocol Department of the Turkish Grand National Assembly
Mrs.Evren Dagdelen AKGUN	Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Embassy of the Republic of Turkey in Bangkok
Mr.Tolga UNCU	First Counsellor and Deputy Chief of Mission Embassy of the Republic of Turkey in Bangkok
Ms.Eda SARI	Second Secretary Embassy of the Republic of Turkey in Bangkok

United Arab Emirates

Mr.Hamad Abdulla ALGHFELI	Member of Federal National Council/ Head of the Delegation
Ms.Azza Suliman AL MALIK	Member of Federal National Council
Dr.Nedal Mohammed ALTENEJJI	Member of Federal National Council
Ms.Hind Ahmed ALSHAMSI	Executive Parliamentary Communication
Mr.Bader Hamad ALMARRI	Protocol Executive

Vietnam

Mr.Hung TRIEU THE	Vice-Chairman of Culture, Education, Youth, Adolescents and Children Committee of Vietnam National Assembly/Head of the Delegation
Mr.Sy DINH CONG	Standing Member of Foreign Affairs Committee of Vietnam National Assembly
Mr.Truc BA DINH	Secretary to the Delegation

Observer Parliament

Qatar

Mr.Mohamed Bin Ali S. AL MAADID	Member of Parliament
Mr.Mohamed Mohieldin ELIMAMALI	Expert on Political Affairs

APA Secretariat

Dr.Mohammad Reza MAJIDI	APA Secretary General
Amb.Kia TABATABAEE	APA Deputy Secretary General
Mr.Mehdi Molla HOSSEINI	Official
Mr.Mehdi GHASHGHAVI	Administrative Officer

13 February 2019 at 17.00 hrs.

The Meeting of the APA Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs,
13-14 February 2019, Bangkok, Thailand

Hon. Nipat



Welcoming Remark



Your Excellency Prof. Pornpetch,
President of the National
Legislative Assembly of Thailand,

Excellencies,
Distinguished APA Members,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

A pleasant morning to you all!

On behalf of the Thai National
Legislative Assembly (NLA) Delegation
//as well as the Steering Committee
on hosting the Meeting// of the APA
Standing Committee on Social and
Cultural Affairs,

I am very pleased and honored// to welcome all of you to the Standing Committee Meeting, hosted by the NLA in Bangkok, the capital city of Thailand.

It is much appreciated to see all friends and colleagues, participate in this Meeting to discuss all important issues// on social and cultural affairs **in Asia**, comprising Cultural and Religious Affairs, Information Technology, Health Equity, Migrant Workers, Anti-Corruption, Women MPs, Illicit Drug, Humanitarian Aid, and other challenging issues.

In this Meeting, it should be expected //to see more and more initiatives //together with new ideas for APA affairs// and for the people of Asia.

The Thai Delegation, for example, has proposed for consideration 2 new draft resolutions// related to ***Child and Youth Development*** and ***Ageing Society***. Kuwait also propose a new one// related to ***Human Resources Development***.

Consequently, I hope that all APA Delegations gathering here// will maximize this opportunity to discuss widely// all existing and new matters for the fruitful outcomes, achieving the Meeting's objectives.

**Distinguished APA Members,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Historically speaking, the Parliament of Thailand has been involving with the APA// since it was once called the Association of Asian Parliaments for Peace or AAPP. Thailand hosted *the 6th General Assembly of the AAPP// in Pattaya in 2005* before the AAPP transformed into the **APA** in a year later.

I would like to express my appreciation// to the ever-host countries of APA meetings, namely Turkey, Cambodia, Cyprus, Pakistan, Bhutan and Iran.

Today, we are immensely proud to have the second chance// to organize another significant meeting under the APA framework: the

Standing Committee Meeting on
Social and Cultural Affairs.

It is my honor// to express my appreciation to *Honorable Dr. Majidi, Secretary-General of the APA*// and *extend my deep gratitude to all member parliaments* from 21 countries// for trusting the NLA, Thailand// to host this distinguished gathering.

As host parliament, we are so impressed that all of us// will jointly accomplish this historical event.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As conflicts and exploitation// have been existing in some societies in Asia,

I do expect that this Meeting// can make another step for all of us, as parliamentarians who represent people of the country, to discuss, to share the ideas towards common values and solutions// that could respond to all social and cultural challenges in a sustainable manner. With accumulated achievements, I would like to commend our APA// on its dynamics and progress, both in terms of **good governance and strong commitment** to working// for the benefit of peoples in Asia.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Now, I would like to officially welcome// all distinguished delegates and participants to the meeting.

I am grateful for your presence at this special event// and do hope that you will actively contribute to this forum //in order to achieve the creative goals of our esteemed organization.

Have a pleasant stay in Bangkok, Thailand!

I thank you.

Attachment III

Statement by H.E. Dr. Majidi, APA Secretary General at the Inaugural Ceremony of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs

In the Name of Allah the Compassionate the Merciful

Mr. Chairman,

Excellencies, Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is my pleasure and honor to address you at the meeting of the APA Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs in historical and magnificent city of Bangkok, the capital of the Kingdom of Thailand.

It is incumbent upon me to express, on behalf of myself, staff of APA Secretariat as well as all participating delegations our sincere and heartfelt gratitude to H.E. Prof. Pornpetch Wichitcholchai, President of the Thai National Legislative Assembly and other high ranking officials of Government and Parliament of the Kingdom of Thailand who have graciously arranged for our meeting today and for few more days to come.

It is an honor and privilege for APA to have the Kingdom of Thailand as one of its dedicated and internationally well-established member of its community to preside over the APA Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs for the next two years.

Mr. Chairman,

I am thoroughly confident that through your wisdom, commitments and professionalism, APA stands to benefit the most. We have come a long way and based on all the efforts of previous Chairmanships, specially

Turkey, Thailand is poised to steer the Standing Committee leadership in such an exemplary manner which will enable us to fulfill our duties and better serve up APA Community. We are obliged to extend our full support in any way possible to make this period a success as we did in previous occasions.

Mr. Chairman,

In this context, I wish to stress that APA 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 otherwise capabilities and potentials and will do its utmost to make the incoming Chairmanship a success.

I wish you all a fruitful and constructive deliberation during the meeting of standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs in Bangkok.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Attachment IV

Dışışleri Bakanlıđı

Ocak 2019

APA TÜRK GRUBU BAŐKANI SAYIN ASUMAN ERDOĐAN'IN ASYA PARLAMENTER ASAMBLESİ (APA) SOSYAL KÜLTÜREL ALT KOMİTE TOPLANTISI AÇILIŐINDA YAPACAKLARI KONUŐMAYA KATKI

Distinguished Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a distinct pleasure to be here today at the Social and Cultural Sub-Committee meeting of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly. Allow me to begin my intervention by thanking the distinguished representatives of Thailand for hosting this well prepared event and for their warm hospitality.

Thailand is one of our important partners in the Asia-Pacific region. In 2018, we marked the 60th anniversary of the establishment of our diplomatic relations. Despite the geographical distance between our countries, our relations have steadily developed in the last six decades. We would like to further enhance Turkey's Sectoral Dialogue Partnership to ASEAN during Thailand's ASEAN 2019 Chairmanship.

There are already mutual Parliamentary Friendship Groups in our respective Parliaments. We wish to develop the relations between our Parliaments after the upcoming elections in Thailand.

With a population of 70 million and annual foreign trade of 400 billion US Dollars, Thailand's significance ascends both in regional and global scale.

Dear Guests,

Turkey describes her foreign policy as "enterprising and humanitarian". We define our national interests in terms of stability and prosperity in our broad neighborhood and the world. To this end, we continue to take concrete initiatives to address threats and challenges at their roots.

We believe that effective multilateralism is key to addressing numerous global problems today. Fight against terrorism and violent extremism, prevention of illegal migration, eradication of poverty, addressing the root causes of humanitarian crises and climate change all require collective efforts which can be achieved through effective multilateralism.

1/2

We take active roles in a range of international and regional platforms. We are convinced that institutions that are “fit for purpose” and making global governance more effective constitute useful tools to address urgent needs of the international community.

Our outreach and partnership policies towards Africa, the Asia-Pacific and Latin America-Caribbean have been working well and creating mutual bonds and benefits.

We have also set in motion a series of trilateral/quadrilateral mechanisms to bolster the principle of regional ownership, from the Balkans and Southern Caucasus to Central Asia and Afghanistan.

Efforts towards prevention and peaceful resolution of conflicts rank high among our priorities. In this respect, Turkey is co-chairing three distinct mediation-focused initiatives at the UN, the OSCE and OIC. For the first time in OIC history, we launched mediation conferences and convened a permanent Contact Group at the OIC. Also, Turkey, together with Finland, as Co-Chairs at the Group of Friends of Mediation, has been active at the UN to increase awareness about mediation. Turkey is the only country that co-chairs such groups at the UN, the OSCE and OIC.

Alliance of Civilizations initiative was launched in 2005 by the Turkey and Spain and subsequently endorsed by the Secretary General of the United Nations. The main purpose of the Alliance is to provide lasting solutions to the dangerously rising trends of hatred, discrimination, xenophobia and extremism. The process for APA’s membership to the Group of Friends of the UN Alliance of Civilizations is still underway.

With the effective humanitarian diplomacy it conducts, Turkey is determined to continue extending a helping hand to those in need. According to the current data, the Republic of Turkey ranks as the biggest donor, in other words “the most generous” country worldwide with its 8 billion USD humanitarian assistance in 2017 in terms of the ratio of humanitarian assistance compared to the gross national income.

Turkey will continue to be an enterprising partner in strengthening the reflex of effective multilateralism throughout the world.

Thank you for your attention.

Attachment V



Opening Remark

by H.E. Prof. Pornpetch Wichitcholchai,
President of the National Legislative Assembly
of the Kingdom of Thailand

at the Asian Parliamentary Assembly Standing Committee

Meeting on Social and Cultural Affairs

on Wednesday, 13th February 2019

Bangkok, Thailand

Excellencies,
Distinguished APA Members,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me a great pleasure to welcome all of you// to the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) Standing Committee Meeting on Social and Cultural Affairs, in Bangkok. It is inspiring to have the Delegates from the APA Member Parliaments gather here// to discuss the important issues regarding *social and cultural affairs in Asia*, such as *Cultural Diversity and Heritage, Rights of Migrant Workers, Inter-Faith Dialogue and Harmony among Religions, APA Parliamentarians on Women, and Humanitarian Aid on the Verge of Humanitarian Catastrophe.*

/It is show that we,...

It is shown that we, the APA Delegations, participating in this Standing Committee Meeting, have firmly committed to such important issues.

I would like to refer to the Meeting// held in the Kingdom of Cambodia in 2005, the Thai Delegation suggested that// there should have been at least one woman parliamentarian participating in the Meeting// to promote gender equality and women's rights. Then, such an initiative was adopted by the Meeting// and has been asserted in the Resolution on the APA Parliamentarians on Women. To this respect, I would like to urge the APA Delegations// for more initiatives contributed to the APA businesses.

Accordingly, the new draft Resolutions have been proposed by the Thai Delegation – *Resolution on the Promotion on Quality Child and Youth Development for Sustainable Society in Asia*// and *Resolution on Ageing Society in Asia*. I hope that the APA Delegations will take this opportunity// to participate in the said matters for magnificent outcomes// and I wish everyone success in fulfilling the Meeting's objectives. With a strong interest, I will follow up enthusiastically// on the deliberation of the Meeting.

/Distinguished APA Members,,...

Distinguished APA Members,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me return to historical background, Thailand had the honor of being the host country, at Pattaya City in 2005, for *the Sixth General Assembly// of the Association of Asian Parliaments for Peace// or AAPP*. A year later in Tehran, the AAPP had been constructively and completely transformed into the esteemed Organization – *the Asian Parliamentary Assembly or APA*. Looking back to over the past decade, I would like to congratulate the APA// on progressive management, in terms of constructive work of the Committee Meetings// and significant increase in the APA membership. For the years to come, I wish the APA Members// could further continue their implementation// for the greater benefit of the people in Asia.

With the rapid change in the APA's dynamic// and the new level of complexity// in parliamentary practices and legislature's decision, the APA systematically provides// an excellent platform for discussing the present and future issues// regarding *social and cultural affairs* within the APA's context. Based on this scenario, the APA Members can connect new dots// among the given resolutions. This is to show that// the challenge is not to opt out// but to find the right balance// in leveraging the common advantages// that allow APA Members or the APA itself to create sustainable values, in contributing to the achievement of inclusive development, and in the process to help build a better world.

/ Ladies and Gentlemen...

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Without sound preparation, *success* is just another word. To this respect, I would like to thank **General Nipat Thonglek**, *Leader* of the Thai National Legislative Assembly Delegation// and *Chairperson* of the Steering Committee// on hosting the Meeting of the APA Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs, for magnificent preparation of this important event// and his great contribution to the APA throughout the years. Also, my appreciation goes to the Secretariat of the House of Representatives// for their tireless effort and hard work, and all concerned Thai authorities// for strong support and facilitation, in hosting this meeting.

Once again, Welcome! I hope that all of you// will much enjoy the excursion program after the Meeting. Meanwhile, I do hope that each of you// has a pleasant stay and a wonderful moment// in the *Lands of Smiles*, and safely return to your *Home* with good memory. Lastly, I strongly hope that// this Meeting will inspire the APA Members// to keep up intrinsic values and continue to perform such important tasks// for the benefit of our peoples.

Thank you for your attention.

Attachment VI



APA Standing Committee Meeting on Social and Cultural Affairs

12 – 15 February 2019
Bangkok – Kingdom of Thailand

Draft Agenda

- 1- Adoption of the Agenda
- 2- Election of the Bureau
- 3- Opening Remarks by Chairperson
- 4- Report of APA Secretary General
- 5- The Meeting of APA Women Parliamentarians
- 6- Consideration and discussion on new Draft Resolutions:
 - Draft Resolution on the Promotion of Quality Child and Youth Development for Sustainable Society in Asia,
 - Draft Resolution on Ageing Society in Asia,
 - Draft Resolution on Building the Asian Individual
- 7- Consideration and recommendation of following Draft Resolutions:
 - 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
- 8- Any other matters.

As of 8 February 2019



**The Meeting of the APA Standing Committee
on Social and Cultural Affairs
12 - 15 February 2019
Amari Watergate Bangkok Hotel
Bangkok, the Kingdom of Thailand**



Working Program

Tuesday, 12 February 2019

- All Day - Arrival of Delegates (Proceed to Amari Watergate Bangkok Hotel)
- 18:00 hrs - Reception Dinner hosted by H.E. Prof. Pompetch Wichitcholchai,
President of the Thai National Legislative Assembly
Venue : The Garden on the 8th floor
Dress : Smart Casual

Wednesday, 13 February 2019

- 06:30 – 08:30 hrs - Breakfast
- 08:30 – 08:45 hrs - Participants start gathering before the start of the Opening Ceremony
Venue : Watergate Ballroom A - B
- 08:45 – 09:00 hrs - Opening VDO Presentation
- 08:45 – 09:00 hrs - Courtesy Call on H.E. Prof. Pompetch Wichitcholchai, President
of the Thai National Legislative Assembly by Heads of APA
Member Delegations
Venue : Banglampoo room, 6th floor
- 09:00 – 09:45 hrs **Inaugural Ceremony**
Venue : Watergate Ballroom A - B
- National Anthem of the Kingdom of Thailand
 - Welcome Remarks by Hon. Gen. Nipat Thonglek, Member of
the Thai National Legislative Assembly and Chairperson of the
Steering Committee on hosting the Meeting of the APA
Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs
 - Remarks by Mr. Mohammad Reza Majidi, APA Secretary General
 - Remarks by Mrs. Asuman Erdogan, Representative of APA
President
 - Opening Remarks by H.E. Prof. Pompetch Wichitcholchai,
President of the Thai National Legislative Assembly
 - Traditional Thai Drum Show (Klong Sabadchai)
- 09:45 – 10:30 hrs **Photo Session and Coffee Break**
- Group 1** President of the Thai National Legislative Assembly
Representative of APA President
Heads of APA Member Delegations
APA Secretary General
- Group 2** President of Thai National Legislative Assembly
All Delegates

- 10:30 – 11:00 hrs **Meeting of Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs**
Venue : Watergate Ballroom A - B, 6th floor
- Adoption of the Agenda
 - Election of the Bureau (Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Rapporteur)
 - Opening Remarks by Chairperson, Hon. Gen. Nipat Thonglek, Member of the Thai National Legislative Assembly
 - Presentation of APA Secretary General's Report on implementation of the present Draft Resolutions and consideration of any proposals to be presented by Member Parliaments
- 11:00 – 11:30 hrs **Meeting of APA Women Parliamentarians**
Venue : Watergate Ballroom A - B, 6th floor
- 11:30 – 12:00 hrs **Meeting of APA Standing Committee (continued)**
Venue : Watergate Ballroom A - B, 6th floor
- Consideration and discussion on New Draft Resolutions
- 12:00 – 13:00 hrs - Lunch
Amaya Food Gallery, 4th floor
- 13:00 – 15:00 hrs **Meeting of APA Standing Committee (continued)**
Venue : Watergate Ballroom A - B, 6th floor
- 15:00 – 15:30 hrs - Coffee Break
- 15:30 – 18:00 hrs **Meeting of APA Standing Committee (continued)**
Venue : Watergate Ballroom A - B, 6th floor
- 19:00 hrs - Dinner
Venue : Amaya Food Gallery, 4th floor

Thursday, 14 February 2019

- 06:30 – 08.30 hrs - Breakfast
- 09:00 – 10:00 hrs **Meeting of APA Standing Committee (continued)**
Venue : Watergate Ballroom A - B, 6th floor
- Adoption of the final report of the Meeting of the APA Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs
 - Closing Remarks by Chairperson, Hon. Gen. Nipat Thonglek, Member of the Thai National Legislative Assembly and Chairperson of the Steering Committee on hosting the Meeting of the APA Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs
- 10:00 – 10:30 hrs - Coffee Break
- 10:30 – 12:00 hrs **Meeting of Working Group on Asian Parliament**
Venue : Watergate Ballroom A - B, 6th floor
- 12:00 – 13:00 hrs - Lunch
Venue : Amaya Food Gallery, 4th floor
- 13:00 hrs - Depart for excursion
Dress : Smart Casual
- 13:30 hrs - Visit Rattanakosin Exhibition Hall

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|-------------------|---|
| 15:45 hrs | - Visit the Grand Palace and the Temple of the Emerald Buddha |
| 16:45 hrs | - Depart for Royal Thai Navy Convention Hall |
| 17:30 – 19:30 hrs | - Dinner on the cruise along the Chao Phraya River |
| 19:45 hrs | - Depart for Amari Watergate Bangkok Hotel |
| 20:30 hrs | - Arrive at Amari Watergate Bangkok Hotel |

Friday, 15 February 2019

All Day	Departure of Delegates
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Attachment VII

ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

The Meeting of the APA Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs

12- 15 February 2019
Bangkok, the Kingdom of Thailand

APA Secretary General's Report

Honorable Speaker of Parliament of the Kingdom of Thailand
Honorable Speakers of Parliament members of APA,
Distinguished members of APA,
Excellencies, Colleagues,

It is great honor and privilege for me to speak to you as Secretary General of APA presenting a brief report on the status of our Standing Committee on Social and Cultural affairs in this historic and lovely city of Bangkok, capital of friendly country of Thailand.

At the same time, and before addressing you on the topics at our hand, I should take this opportunity to express on behalf of myself and colleagues of secretariat, my warmest and deepest appreciation to members of Thai parliament as well as state officials and all others who took the burden of hosting our meeting and providing us with unique hospitality.

Excellencies,

Based on the result of our last Standing Committee meeting in Izmir, Turkey, there are ten draft resolutions and two new draft resolutions by the Kingdom of Thailand and one by State of Kuwait before you to be considered, discussed and finalized.

The scope of these resolutions covers the following areas:

1. Measures to promote cultural diversity and protect cultural heritage
2. Integration through ICT
3. Collaboration on health equity
4. Rights of migrant workers

5. Parliamentarians against corruption
6. Women parliamentarians
7. Dialogue and harmony among world religions
8. Combating smuggling of cultural items
9. Combating illicit drug trafficking
10. Humanitarian aids to Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Gaza and Myanmar

Two new draft resolution presented by the host are Draft Resolution on Ageing Society in Asia and Draft Resolution on the Promotion of Quality Child and Youth Development for Sustainable Society in Asia. The topic of the new draft resolution submitted by Kuwait is Building the Asian Individual.

All these resolutions address main issues, challenges and concerns of our Asian societies and thus are considered of utmost importance to each and all of us. Therefore, I propose to you to focus on the contents and ideas being put forward by these resolutions and do your best to enrich them substantially.

On the other hand, one might venture to state that there are other topics and areas of importance through which APA is called for cooperation and thus merits the attention of us all. In our meeting in the Kingdom of Bhutan, I took the liberty of naming a few for your kind consideration. I would like to remind you some of those areas.

1- Social inclusion and education of people with disabilities:

More than one billion people around the world, of whom nearly 93 million are children, live with some form of disability. Societies' misperception of different forms and types of disability and the limited capacity of social actors to accommodate special needs often place people on the margin. Persons with disabilities experience inequalities in their daily lives, and have fewer opportunities to access a quality education that takes place in an inclusive environment.

As UN supports various international Human Rights Treaties and Conventions that uphold the right to education of all persons through a rights-based approach, APA needs to promote inclusive education policies, programs and practices to ensure equal education opportunities for persons with disabilities.

2. Tourism

Tourism attracts and invites numerous visitors across the world to come and visit a country. Tourism is also a wonderful method for cultural exchanges. It also helps in the economic progress of a country and generates new jobs. Therefore, every country should encourage tourism as much as possible because expansion of Tourism encourages societal progress, aids and encourages infrastructure development and is a continual source of income for public and private sectors. It is recommended to study the ways and means of expansion of Tourism in Asia and facilitation of tourism in APA member countries by adopting appropriate legislation.

3. Synergy among parliament libraries

Nowadays, it is necessary to converge libraries and research centers to empower and promote information synergy among all nations. This atmosphere of cooperation will specifically re-enforce the future research and study potentials. Thus it is recommended that modalities and procedures are considered and adopted to support it.

4. Cooperation among Asian parliaments on cultural heritage

Considering the rich cultural heritage of eastern and western civilizations in the Asian continent, common heritage of all Asian countries and the inevitability of cooperation among governments and parliaments on safeguarding these heritage and especially referring to the relevant cultural conventions of UNESCO, it is highly recommended to consider proposals on enhancing the effective cooperation among Asian Parliaments in this regard.

5. Silk Road project

In the 21st century, many countries are engaged in the Silk Road project and recently the “One Belt-One Road” project has also been initiated in this framework. This project is an example of globalization in the modern world

but is mostly focusing on closer collaboration and partnership on connecting various countries. Considering the historical role of the Silk Road in the cultural and economic relations among Asian nations, it is recommended to initiate preliminary studies to provide practical proposals on encouraging dialogue and cooperation among Asian Parliaments to support this initiative and provide new opportunities and impetus for Asian cooperation.

The APA secretariat is willing and ready to launch its activities in this regard and provide you with expert reports as food for thoughts, hoping that the voice of our organization could be heard across the world.

I would like to once again register my warm appreciation to the Parliament and Government of the Kingdom of Thailand for their kind hospitality and wish you success in your deliberations.

Thank you for your attention.