



ГОСУДАРСТВЕННАЯ ДУМА  
ФЕДЕРАЛЬНОГО СОБРАНИЯ РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ  
СЕДЬМОГО СОЗЫВА

**ДЕПУТАТ**  
ГОСУДАРСТВЕННОЙ ДУМЫ

05 07 20 18 г.

№ 2011-4/003

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

Following to our conversation during the 8<sup>th</sup> APA Plenary Session in Istanbul, November, 2017, and the International Parliamentary Forum in Moscow, June 2018, concerning the need to improve APA statutory documents I am glad to transmit the amendments to the APA Charter, Rules of Procedure and Financial Regulation.

You are kindly requested to distribute these amendments among the APA member parliaments in order to discuss them within the nearest forthcoming meeting of the APA Standing Committee on the Staff and Financial Regulations.

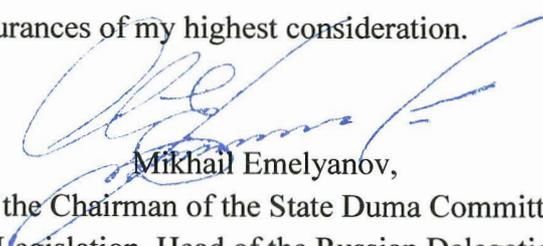
Also I kindly ask you to include into the Draft Agenda of the Standing Committee on the Staff and Financial Regulations forthcoming meeting the following questions:

- 1) The renaming of the Standing Committee on the Staff and Financial Regulations to the Standing Committee on the Statutory Documents, Staff and Financial Regulations;
- 2) The consideration of Amendments to APA Charter, Rules of Procedure, Staff and Financial Regulations.

I and the Secretariat of the Russian Delegation to APA remain at your disposal to answer any related questions you may have.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Sincerely yours,

  
Mikhail Emelyanov,

First Deputy of the Chairman of the State Duma Committee on the State Construction and Legislation, Head of the Russian Delegation to APA

H.E. Mr. Mohammad Reza Majidi,  
Secretary General, Asian Parliamentary Assembly  
Tehran

**FINANCIAL REGULATIONS  
AMENDMENTS\***

Ser. No.	Current revision	New revision	Notes
1	<p><b>ARTICLE -1</b></p> <p>The present Financial Regulations organize the financial administration of the APA. The Regulations shall become effective once they are considered by the Executive Council and adopted by the Plenary. It may only be amended through a decision of two third majority of Member Parliaments present and voting in the plenary.</p> <p><b>ARTICLE -2</b></p> <p>The fiscal year shall run from the first day of May to the last day of April.</p>	<p><b>Unchanged</b></p>	
2	<p><b>ARTICLE -3</b></p> <p>Secretary General shall prepare and present the draft annual budget to the Member Parliaments at least 30 days in advance of the first meeting of the Executive Council. The Council may establish a committee for further consideration of the draft to formulate its recommendations on the draft budget to the Executive Council. The final budget shall be adopted by the Plenary not later than the end of the fiscal year.</p>	<p><b>New revision:</b></p> <p>The General Secretary shall draw up a draft annual budget and submit it to the Standing Committee for Budgeting and Procedure Rules for consideration but not later than 30 days prior to the first meeting of the Executive Board.</p> <p>The Standing Committee for Budgeting and Procedure Rules shall prepare recommendations on the draft budget.</p> <p>The final budget shall be approved by the Executive Board.</p>	
3	<p><b>ARTICLE -4</b></p> <p>Any replacement, decrease or increase in any chapter of the budget by the Secretary General shall be acceptable within a limit of 20% thereof. If need be for a higher increase, the Secretary General shall present an explanatory note for the consideration of the Executive Council. Any new chapter may also be added to the budget to cover the expenses relating to any new activity, in which case, detailed explanatory information shall be provided by the Secretary General to the Executive Council for consideration.</p>	<p><b>New revision:</b></p> <p>Expenses cannot exceed the threshold amount stipulated by the budget.</p> <p>The General Secretary is liable for any expenses exceeding the threshold amount stipulated by the budget.</p>	
4	<p><b>ARTICLE -5</b></p> <p>The budget and the Secretariat accounts shall be drawn up and kept in Euro and Iranian Rial.</p>	<p><b>Unchanged</b></p>	
5	<p><b>ARTICLE -6</b></p> <p>Upon approval of the budget by the Plenary, the Secretary General shall be authorized to undertake financial commitments for the purposes for which credits have been approved within the limits of such credits in each chapter and item.</p>	<p><b>Deleted</b></p>	
6	<p><b>ARTICLE -7</b></p> <p>All payments to the APA under any category,</p>	<p><b>Unchanged</b></p>	

	including voluntary contribution by Member parliaments, donations, grants, endowments, interests granted to funds and deposits shall be made in Euro and maintained in APA bank accounts, so as to facilitate its international auditing.		
7	<p><b>ARTICLE - 8</b></p> <p>8.1. APA Secretary General may transfer credits between items in any one chapter up to 20% of the budget within the limits of the credit approved for the chapter concerned.</p> <p>8.2 The Secretary General may transfer credits between chapters of the budget; up to 20 % whenever needed within the limits of the credits for each of the chapters.</p> <p>8.3 All such transfers shall be reported in the explanatory information referred to in Article 4, together with an explanation of the circumstances.</p>	<p><b>New revision</b></p> <p><b>8.3</b> Every redistribution of resources shall be accompanied by an explanatory note justifying a need in such redistribution.</p>	
8	<p><b>ARTICLE - 9</b></p> <p>Credits shall be used for commitments only during the fiscal year to which they relate. In case of non-payment or delay of contributions, and in order to meet the level of budget by the APA, the Secretary General is allowed to use the funds available and adjust accordingly.</p> <p><b>ARTICLE - 10</b></p> <p>10.1 The annual budget, which shall be approved by the Plenary and will not exceed 1,000,000 US dollars (one million US dollars), shall be financed by contributions from Member Parliaments which will be assessed on the basis of a formula to be considered by the Executive Council and adopted by the Plenary being an indispensable attachment of these Regulations</p> <p>10.2 Subject to the Rule 40 of the Rules of Procedure, once the Plenary has approved the annual budget, the Secretary General shall advise Member Parliaments of their assessed contribution and request them to remit the funds.</p> <p>10.3 Contributions shall be considered due and payable in full, within 60 days of the receipt by Member Parliaments of Secretary General's letter of assessment.</p> <p>10.4. Non-payment of contributions by any Member Parliament shall be reported to the Executive Council for appropriate decision, which may include reporting it to the Plenary.</p> <p>10.5 The Secretary General shall submit to the Executive Council a report on the collection of contributions.</p>	<p><b>Unchanged</b></p>	

9	<p><b>ARTICLE – 11</b></p> <p>11.1. The Secretary General shall be responsible for administering the APA funds.</p> <p>11.2. The Secretary General shall set up those internal controls as may be necessary to maintain a continuous check on all financial transactions, ensure fitness and transparency, prevent any misapplication of funds, and ensure the utmost economy.</p> <p>11.3 To this end, the Secretary General shall issue directives, set procedures and take the following steps:</p> <p>11.3.1 To check that all expenditure is in conformity with the credits and other fiscal measures approved by the Plenary.</p> <p>11.3.2 To ensure that payments are made only on production of vouchers for services rendered and/or goods received.</p> <p>11.3.3 To sign and seal, together with Head of Human and Financial Resources Department, all operations of transfer of funds or cheques and financial liabilities, payment orders or any other documents pertaining to expenditure from the budget.</p>	<p><b>New revision</b></p> <p><b>11.1.</b> The General Secretary shall manage the budget execution and is liable for disposal of the APA financial resources.</p> <p><b><i>Other sub-clauses shall remain unchanged</i></b></p>	
0	<p><b>ARTICLE -12</b></p> <p>APA funds shall be kept in Banks of the APA Headquarters.</p> <p><b>ARTICLE -13</b></p> <p>13.1 The Head of Human and Financial Resources Department shall maintain documents to show:</p> <p>13.1.1. Amounts authorized, commitments undertaken, payments made, and available balances of authorizations with respect to each item in the budget.</p> <p>13.1.2 Assessed contributions of all Member Parliaments, together with the payments received from them and the balances remaining due.</p> <p>13.1.3 Miscellaneous income.</p> <p>13.1.4 Cash balances and balances at banks.</p>	<p><b>Unchanged</b></p> <p><b>New revision:</b></p> <p><b>13.2</b> The General Secretary shall submit financial reports on the APA financial status to the Financial Control Committee twice per year.</p>	

	<p>13.1.5 Other assets and liabilities of the APA.</p> <p>13.2 The Secretary General shall present to the Executive Council biannual financial reports on the APA financial situation.</p> <p><b>ARTICLE -14</b> The Secretary General is authorized to write-off on losses of cash, stores and other assets up to limit of 1000 Euro and anything above this amount has to be approved by the Executive Council. A full statement of all such amounts written off shall be attached to the annual financial report.</p> <p><b>ARTICLE -15</b> The APA funds shall be made up of:</p> <p>1- Payment of assessed contributions by Member Parliaments in accordance with approved attachment.</p> <p>2- The grants, endowments and donations in cash and in kind accepted by the Secretary General.</p> <p>3- The Interests/profit granted on funds and deposits of the APA accounts.</p>		
1	<p><b>ARTICLE -16</b></p> <p>16.1 Upon the suggestion of Secretary General the Executive Council shall determine the fees of an External Account Auditor who shall be a certified accountant of the host country, locally appointed on a yearly basis by the Secretary General.</p> <p>16.2 The local External Account Auditor shall present his/her report before the end of the fourth month of the next year to the Secretary General who shall submit it with his/her comments and views to the Financial Control Committee (FCC) , as defined by the paragraph 16.3 below, as well as to the Executive Council for consideration and approval.</p> <p>16.3 A Financial Control Committee (FCC) composed of three Auditors shall be appointed by the Executive Council on a two-year rotational basis to be nominated by Member Parliaments from among those regularly contributing to the APA budget.</p> <p>16.4 The Financial Control Committee (FCC) shall meet annually at the Headquarters of the Secretariat in order to audit the accounts of the Secretariat for the previous year and study the report made by the local External Auditor. The Committee shall present its report to the Executive Council through the Secretary General. This report shall include:</p>	<p><b>New revision:</b></p> <p><b>Cl. 16.1 deleted</b></p> <p><b>Cl. 16.2 deleted</b></p> <p><b>Cl. 16.3. New revision</b> The Financial Control Committee (FCC) consisting of five auditors from among the parliament members shall be appointed by the Executive Board for two years according to the rotation principle so as the representatives of all the APA member-parliaments that make regular contributions could participate in the committee.</p> <p><b>Cl. 16.4. New revision</b> The Financial Control Committee (FCC) shall hold meetings up to twice per year, conduct an annual financial</p>	

	<p>a) Remarks on financial matters.  b) Remarks on the report of the External Account Auditor.  c) The extent of effectiveness of the financial and internal control procedures within the Secretariat.</p> <p>16.5 The local External Account Auditor shall abide by the conventional international rules and accounting standards.</p> <p>16.6 In no case, however, shall the Financial Control Committee include substantial observations in its audit report without first affording the Secretary General or his/her representative(s) an opportunity for explanations to the FCC on the matter under observation. Such explanations shall be included in the report of the Committee.</p> <p>16.7 The Secretary General may submit to the Executive Council a report giving his/her views and observations on the Report of the Financial Control Committee (FCC) and that of the local External Auditor.</p> <p>16.8 The Secretary General shall pay the fees of the local External Account Auditor, while the fees and other expenses of the Financial Control Committee (FCC) shall be borne by their respective Parliaments.</p> <p>16.9 No former staff member of the Secretariat shall be appointed as Auditor. Likewise, no former Auditor shall be appointed in the Secretariat before a period of three years has elapsed since he/she left his/her last position.</p>	<p>audit at the headquarters of the Secretariat, check the Secretariat's accounts for the preceding years, and draw up a report.  The Committee shall submit this report to the Executive Board. This report shall include the following:  a) comments on financial issues;  b) a degree of efficiency of the financial and internal control procedures at the Secretariat;  c) recommendations.</p> <p><b>Cl. 16.5 deleted</b></p> <p><b>Cl. 16.6. New revision</b>  The Financial Control Committee is entitled to request the General Secretary to provide explanations on financial issues.</p> <p><b>Cl. 16.7. New revision</b> The General Secretary may submit a report containing its own opinion and observations concerning the Report of the Financial Control Committee (FCC) to the Executive Board.</p> <p><b>Cl. 16.8 New revision</b> The cost of works and other expenses of the Financial Control Committee (FCC) shall be covered by the APA budget.</p> <p><b>Cl. 16.9 Unchanged</b></p>	
1	<p><b>ARTICLE -17</b></p> <p>The Executive Council shall examine the reports of the Financial Control Committee (FCC), of the local External Auditor and of the Secretary General. Approval of the Report of the Financial Control Committee (FCC) by the Executive Council shall authorize the closing of the accounts of the concerned fiscal year and clearing the Secretary General's financial responsibility thereon. Otherwise, the Executive Council shall continue to investigate the remaining questions and find resolution before the end of the next fiscal year.</p>	<p><b>Clause 17. New revision:</b></p> <p><b>Cl. 17.1.</b> The Executive Board shall examine the reports of the Standing Committee for Budgeting and Procedure Rules at its first meeting. In case of discrepancies, it shall hear a report of the Financial Control Committee (FCC) and the General Secretary and makes a decision on whether to approve it. In case of non-approval of the financial report, the Executive Board shall continue considering the remaining issues until it finds a solution before the financial year closing.</p> <p><b>Cl. 17.2.</b> The Executive Board shall pass a budget for the next year at its second meeting.</p>	

The numbering of clauses will be changed once the document is approved in full.\*

**AMENDMENTS TO THE APA CHARTER**

APA/2007/10  
November 19, 2007



**Charter  
of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly  
(APA)\***

<b>Current wording</b>	<b>New wording</b>	<b>Note</b>
<p>The Charter was adopted, in principle, at the First Session of the APA Plenary in November 2006. Amendments were elaborated in the meeting of the Executive Council, 17-18 November 2007, Tehran, and recommended to the 2nd plenary of the APA. The 2nd Plenary of the APA, 19-21 November 2007, Tehran, the Islamic Republic of Iran, adopted its Charter as herewith annexed on this Monday, 19th of November 2007.</p>	<p><b>New wording:</b> The Charter was adopted, in principle, at the First Session of the APA Plenary in November 2006. Amendments were elaborated at the meeting of the Executive Council on November 17-18, 2007 in Tehran and recommended for the adoption to the 2nd Plenary of the APA. The 2nd Plenary of the APA on November 19-21, 2007 in Tehran, the Islamic Republic of Iran, adopted its Charter as herewith annexed on Monday, November 19, 2007. The new version of the Charter was approved by the Executive Council on _____, 2019 (<i>city, country</i>) and was approved by the APA Plenary on _____, 2019 (<i>city, country</i>).</p>	<p>The time and place of adoption of the new version of the Charter should be added.</p>

<p><b><u>Preamble</u></b></p> <p>Convinced that the pursuit of peace based upon justice and international cooperation is vital for the preservation of human society and civilization;</p> <p>Reaffirming the devotion of Asian countries to the spiritual and moral values which are the common heritage of their peoples and the true source of individual freedom, political liberty and the rule of law, principles which form the basis of all genuine democracy;</p> <p>Believing that, for the maintenance and further realization of these ideals and in the interests of economic and social progress, there is a need for a closer unity among Asian Countries;</p> <p>Responding to this need and the expressed aspirations of their peoples in this regard, it is necessary forthwith to create an Assembly which will bring together Asian countries into closer association with a view to their eventual integration into an Asian parliamentary union;</p> <p>We, therefore, the present members of the Association of Asian Parliaments for Peace (AAPP), see the need for the transformation of AAPP to Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) and do hereby declare, on behalf of parliaments we represent, the following:</p>	<p>The last sentence should be excluded.</p> <p><b><u>New wording: Preamble</u></b></p> <p>Convinced that the pursuit of peace based upon justice and international cooperation is vital for the preservation of human society and civilization;</p> <p>Reaffirming the devotion of Asian countries to the spiritual and moral values which are the common heritage of their peoples and the true source of individual freedom, political liberty and the rule of law, principles which form the basis of all genuine democracy;</p> <p>Believing that, for the maintenance and further realization of these ideals and in the interests of economic and social progress, there is a need for a closer unity among Asian Countries;</p> <p>Responding to this need and the expressed aspirations of their peoples in this regard, it is necessary forthwith to create an Assembly which will bring together Asian countries into closer association with a view to their eventual integration into an Asian parliamentary union;</p>	<p>The last sentence is no longer relevant.</p>
<p><b><u>General Rules</u></b></p>	<p>No amendments</p>	
<p><b>Article 1: Establishment of APA</b></p> <p>The Association of Asian Parliaments for Peace (AAPP) is hereby transformed into the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA), hereafter called "the Assembly". The Charter of the AAPP is accordingly replaced by this Charter.</p>	<p><b><u>New wording:</u></b> <b>Article 1. Establishment of the APA</b></p> <p>The APA shall be formed of parliaments of Asian countries (hereinafter referred to as the Member Parliaments) that send their delegations composed of current members of these parliaments (hereinafter referred to as delegations) to participate in the APA activities. The parliamentarians who are members of the parliamentary delegations shall be hereinafter referred to as</p>	

<p><b>Article 2: Principles of Establishment of APA</b></p> <p>All Member Parliaments;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emphasizing on the equality of all members;</li> <li>• Recognizing the national authority, sovereignty, peaceful coexistence and non-interference in their internal affairs;</li> <li>• Believing in friendship and peaceful settlement of conflicts;</li> <li>• Encouraging and promoting human rights and opposing terrorism and recognizing the rights and freedom of nations;</li> <li>• Emphasizing on the necessity of full-fledged cooperation with regard to sustainable development and protection of the environment;</li> <li>• Trying to create common organizations aimed at providing infrastructures and encouraging economic development through taking advantage of regional commonalities;</li> <li>• Believing in the benefits of harmonizing laws and legal practices from among the members of the Assembly, taking into consideration the diversities of Asian cultural, political and economic experiences, with the view to achieving common legislations;</li> </ul> <p>Express their willingness to establish the Asian Parliamentary Assembly.</p>	<p>delegates.</p> <p><b>New wording:</b>  <b>Article 2. APA Principles</b>  - equality of all members  - recognition of the sovereignty and independence of the APA member states  - adherence to the principles of peaceful coexistence and non-interference in the internal affairs of other states  - commitment to the peaceful resolution of conflicts  - recognition of the rights and freedoms of nations  - promoting respect for human rights  - countering terrorism  - cooperation in sustainable development and environmental protection  - promoting the preservation of cultural, political and economic diversity of Asian countries</p>	
<p><b>Article 3: Objectives of the Establishment of APA</b></p> <p>The Objectives of the APA are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Promoting freedom, social justice, peace, security and friendship to meet the objectives of the Assembly.</li> <li>2. Sharing access to up-to-date knowledge in various areas and promoting such knowledge among the members in order to promote the progress and equality of its members.</li> <li>3. Exploiting cooperatively vast human</li> </ol>	<p>No amendments</p>	

<p>and natural resources and securing the interests of all members and recognizing their permanent authority on their natural resources.</p> <p>4. Providing welfare facilities for the health and nutrition of its member's population.</p> <p>5. Contributing to integration among the Asian nations in order to utilize the potentialities of the region.</p>		
<p><b>Article 4: Membership of the APA</b></p> <p>Membership of the APA is open to National Parliaments of the sovereign States of Asia.</p> <p>National Parliaments of the sovereign States of Asia may at any time submit their application for joining the APA. The application will be circulated to the member parliaments and shall be approved by 2/3 majority of the Assembly.</p>	<p><b>New wording:</b> <b>Article 4. Membership in the APA</b></p> <p>The parliament of any country that is fully or partially located in Asia, committed to the APA principles and goals and determined to comply with the APA Charter may become an APA member. The procedure for accepting new members shall be governed by the APA Rules of Procedure.</p>	<p>The Bureau is excluded from the list of APA bodies since it has never been formed and does not have real powers</p>
<p><b>Basic Organs and Structure</b></p>	<p><b>New wording:</b> <b>APA Structure</b></p>	<p>The new title eliminates the tautology</p>
<p><b>Article 5: Basic Organs of the APA</b></p> <p>The APA shall be composed of the Plenary, the Executive Council, Bureau of the Assembly, the Committees as may be established, and the Secretariat.</p>	<p><b>New wording:</b> <b>Article 5. APA Bodies</b></p> <p>The APA shall comprise the Plenary, the Executive Council, the President of the APA, Standing Committees and the Secretariat. Activities of the APA bodies shall be regulated by the Rules of Procedure. Establishment of subsidiary bodies shall be governed by the Rules of Procedure.</p>	
<p><b>Article 6: Members and Observers of the Plenary</b></p> <p>As the most important organ, the Plenary shall be composed of sitting politicians of the member parliaments, who are elected by their respective national parliaments for a two-year term of office.</p> <p>Other Asian Parliaments, regional and international organizations may attend the Sessions of the Plenary of the APA as Observers upon approval by the Executive Council.</p>	<p><b>To be excluded</b></p>	<p>It is proposed that organizational issues concerning activities of the APA bodies should be regulated by the Rules of Procedure</p>

<p><b>Article 7: Authority of the Plenary</b></p> <p>The Plenary may approve decisions, resolutions and declarations or submit reports on general policies of the APA and on other subjects related to its activities.</p>		
<p><b>Article 8: Number of Votes</b></p> <p>Each member parliament enjoys voting rights corresponding to the number of its delegates in the Plenary. Each member parliament has two delegates plus additional delegates determined as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Countries with population between 1 million up to 50 millions will have two additional delegates,</li> <li>• Countries with population between 50 and 200 millions will have three additional delegates,</li> <li>• Countries with population between 200 and 500 millions will have four additional delegates, and</li> <li>• Countries with population over 500 millions will have five additional delegates.</li> </ul>	<p><b>New wording:</b> <b>Article 6.</b> <b>Number of delegates from one parliament.</b></p> <p>Each APA Member Parliament shall have the right to send a delegation to work in the APA consisting of two delegates plus an additional number of delegates defined as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Countries with the population of 1 million and up to 50 million will have two additional delegates,</li> <li>• Countries with the population of 50 million and up to 200 million will have three additional delegates,</li> <li>• Countries with the population of 200 million and up to 500 million will have four additional delegates, and</li> <li>• Countries with the population of over 500 million will have five additional delegates.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Article 9: Sessions of the Plenary</b></p> <p>The Plenary shall hold at least one annual ordinary session. In case of emergency, and upon request of any of the member parliaments and approval of majority of member parliaments, an extraordinary session shall be held.</p> <p><b>Article 10: Executive Council</b></p> <p>Executive Council shall be composed of one APA delegate from each member parliament.</p> <p>Executive Council shall meet at least twice a year: once, immediately before the meeting of the Plenary, and the other normally about three months prior to the meeting of the Plenary at the previous host country.</p> <p><b>Article 10: Bureau of the</b></p>	<p><b>To be excluded</b></p>	<p>It is proposed that organizational issues concerning activities of the APA bodies should be regulated by the Rules of Procedure.</p> <p>The Bureau is considered to be an unnecessary body.</p>

<p><b>Assembly</b></p> <p>The Assembly shall have a President, Four Vice-Presidents, and one Rapporteur, taking into consideration equitable regional distributions. *</p> <p>The President of the Assembly shall be elected from amongst the presidents or speakers of the member parliaments for a one or two-year term of office, depending on the decision of the host parliament, by the majority vote of the delegates of the member parliaments. The President shall be eligible for one consecutive reelection.</p> <p>The President shall be elected during the first meeting of each term of office for the upcoming period.</p>		
<p><b>Article 10: Bureau of the Assembly</b></p> <p>The Assembly shall have a President, Four Vice-Presidents, and one Rapporteur, taking into consideration equitable regional distributions.*</p> <p>The President of the Assembly shall be elected from amongst the presidents or speakers of the member parliaments for a one or two-year term of office, depending on the decision of the host parliament, by the majority vote of the delegates of the member parliaments. The President shall be eligible for one consecutive reelection.</p> <p>The President shall be elected during the first meeting of each term of office for the upcoming period.</p>	<p><b>New wording:</b>  <b>Article 7. President of the Assembly</b>  The President of the Assembly shall be elected by a majority vote of the delegates of the Member Parliaments from among the Chairpersons (Speakers) of the Member Parliaments for a one-year term of office. The President may be re-elected for a second term by decision of the Plenary.  The President shall be elected by a majority vote of the delegates that participated in the vote at the Plenary.  The powers of the President shall become effective upon election and shall be terminated upon election of a new President.  The President shall guide the work of the APA, monitor activities of the Secretariat, organize the Plenary and meetings of the Executive Council in his/her country and ensure the conditions for their work.  The powers and activities of the President shall be governed by the Rules of Procedure.</p>	<p>The Bureau is considered to be an unnecessary body.</p>
<p><b>Article 10: Legal entity</b></p> <p>The Asian Parliamentary Assembly is a legal entity represented by its President.</p>	<p><b>Article 8: No amendments</b></p>	
<p><b>Article 11: Voting</b></p> <p>All decisions of the Assembly shall require a majority vote of the</p>	<p><b>New wording</b>  <b>Article 9. Voting</b>  At meetings of the standing committees and the APA Executive</p>	<p>Voting procedure is governed by the Rules of Procedure</p>

<p>delegates of the member parliaments present and voting, unless the Plenary decides by simple majority of the delegates that on a specific subject a higher majority is required.</p>	<p>Council the whole delegation shall have the right to vote based on the principle of “one delegation - one vote”. In case of disagreement within the delegation, the vote of its head shall be considered.</p> <p>At the Plenary decisions shall be taken by a majority vote of the delegates participating in the voting based on the principle of “one delegate - one vote”. Each delegate shall vote individually.</p> <p>Other matters regarding the voting procedure shall be governed by the Rules of Procedure.</p>	
<p><b>Secretariat</b></p> <p><b>Article 12: Provisional Secretariat</b></p> <p>The venue of the Secretariat shall be in the country of the elected president of the Assembly.</p> <p>The host country shall be responsible for providing the required facilities for the Secretariat and convening of the sessions of the Assembly.</p>	<p><b>To be excluded</b></p>	<p>The Provisional Secretariat is an unnecessary body that was never formed</p>
<p><b>Article 13: Permanent Secretariat</b></p> <p>Major terms of reference of the Secretariat are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintaining communication with members and preparing for the sessions of the Assembly,</li> <li>• Following up the implementation of the decisions of the Assembly,</li> <li>• Protecting the documents of the APA,</li> </ul>	<p><b>New wording:</b> <b>Article 10. Secretariat</b></p> <p>The main responsibilities of the Secretariat shall include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- implementation of the decisions of the Plenary and meetings of the Executive Council and APA Standing Committees</li> <li>- administration of the APA budget and report on its utilization to the APA Executive Council</li> <li>- preparation of draft resolutions and other decisions of the APA on instruction of the Executive Council</li> <li>- timely notification of the Member Parliaments of holding Plenary sessions, meetings of the Executive Council and Standing Committees and other APA events as well as sending out all the documents related to these events.</li> <li>- assistance to the Member Parliaments in holding Plenary sessions and meetings of the Executive Council and Standing Committees</li> <li>- maintenance of communication with the Member Parliaments and preparation for holding APA Plenary sessions.</li> </ul>	<p>It is proposed to exclude the word “permanent” since the concept of the “provisional secretariat” is excluded.</p> <p>In the current version of the Charter, the responsibilities of the Secretariat are not listed in full. Additions are proposed.</p>

	- safekeeping of APA documents, The APA Secretariat shall be headed by the Secretary-General. The status of the Secretary-General shall be determined by the APA Rules of Procedure and the APA Personnel Regulations.	
<b>Article 14: Establishment of the Specialized Commissions</b>  The Assembly may create special commissions to deal with any subject of interests.	<b>To be excluded</b>	It should be regulated by the Rules of Procedure
<b>Article 15: Rules of Procedure of the Assembly</b>  The Assembly shall adopt its rules of procedure which have to be in accordance with the Charter.	<b>New wording:</b> <b>Article 11. APA Rules of Procedure, APA Financial Regulations and APA Personnel Regulations</b> The APA Rules of Procedure, APA Financial Regulations and APA Personnel Regulations shall be adopted by the Plenary by a majority vote of the members that participated in the vote.	
<b>Official Languages</b>  <b>Article 16: APA Official and working Languages</b>  The official languages of the APA are Arabic and English and its working language is English.	<b>New wording:</b> <b>Official Languages</b>  <b>Article 12: APA official and working languages</b> The official languages of the APA shall be Arabic, Russian and English and the working language shall be English.	It is proposed to add Russian as an official language since Russian is the fifth most widely spread language in the world. It is convenient for delegates from several APA countries and APA observers to use Russian
<b>Amendment</b>  <b>Article 17: Amendment of the Charter</b>  Amendments of this Charter shall require the approval of at least 2/3 of the member parliaments present and voting in the Plenary.	<b>New wording:</b> <b>Article 13: Adoption of a new Charter and amendments to the Charter</b> The decision to amend the Charter or adopt a new Charter shall be taken based on the proposal of the Executive Council by the Plenary by a two-thirds majority of the votes given by the members that participated in the vote.	
* Reissued for technical reasons.  * - With due regard to a balance in regional representation, Asia is grouped into the following five sub-regions: 1- West Asia: Bahrain, Cyprus, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Yemen, ... 2- Southeast Asia: Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines,	To be excluded  - With due regard to a balance in regional representation, Asia is grouped into the following five sub-regions: 1- West Asia: Bahrain, Cyprus, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Yemen, ... 2- Southeast Asia: Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, ...	The current list of the APA members should be updated

<p>Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam,...</p> <p>3- South Asia: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka,...</p> <p>4- East Asia and the Pacific: China, Fiji, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Kiribati, Mongolia, Palau, Republic of Korea, Tonga,...</p> <p>5- Central Asia and the CIS: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan Uzbekistan, ...</p>	<p>3- South Asia: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, ...</p> <p>4- East Asia and the Pacific: China, Fiji, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Kiribati, Mongolia, Palau, Republic of Korea, Tonga, ...</p> <p>5- Central Asia and the CIS: <b>Azerbaijan</b>, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, ...</p>	
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## TABLE OF AMENDMENTS TO APA RULES OF PROCEDURE



Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA)

**SECTION I “On the title and structure of the Rules of Procedure”**

This block contains proposals to exclude the mention of the Plenary from the title of the document since the revised document will establish not only the rules for holding the Plenary but also regulate activities of other APA bodies (executive council, standing committees and subsidiary bodies).

For the same reason the internal structure of the document has been changed, so a different table of contents is proposed.

	<b>Current wording</b>	<b>Amendments</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Rules of procedure of the PLENARY OF THE ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (APA)</b>	<b>Rules of procedure of the ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (APA)</b>	
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I. Composition</li> <li>• II. Session</li> <li>• III. Presidency- Bureau</li> <li>• IV. Standing Committees</li> <li>• V. Agenda-Resolutions-Debates</li> <li>• VI. Amendments</li> <li>• VII. Speaking-Order-Procedural Motions</li> <li>• VIII. Quorum-Consensus-Voting</li> <li>• IX. Permanent and Provisional Secretariats</li> <li>• X. Close of the plenary</li> <li>• XI. Adoption and Amendments of the Rules</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Composition</li> <li>II. Standing committees and subsidiary bodies</li> <li>III. Executive Council</li> <li>IV. Plenary</li> <li>V. President</li> <li>VI. Decision-making procedure</li> <li>VII. Secretariat</li> <li>VIII. Amendments to the Rules of Procedure</li> </ul>	

## SECTION II “On the composition”

This set of amendments clarifies the terms used in the Rules of Procedure and the rules for granting a status of observers in the APA and their attendance at sessions and meetings of committees. It is proposed not to appoint delegates for a two-year period since in practice this period is not complied with.

<b>3</b>	<b>I. COMPOSITION</b>	No amendments	
<b>4</b>	<b>RULE 1</b>  1. The Plenary shall be composed of sitting Members of Parliaments in Asia <sup>1</sup> designated by Member Parliaments of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, hereinafter called APA, as APA delegates for a two-year term of office in conformity with Article 6 of the Charter.	<b>par.1 New wording:</b>  The APA shall be composed of sitting Members of Parliaments in Asia <sup>1</sup> designated by Member Parliaments of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, hereinafter called APA, as APA delegates for a two-year term of office in conformity with Article 6 of the Charter.	The two-year term of permanent representation in the APA is not complied with in practice since rotation of delegates may take place earlier or delegates participate in the APA meetings based on their relevant expertise
<b>5</b>	2. Each Member Parliament is entitled to designate between two to seven APA delegates in accordance with Article 8 of the Charter.	<b>par.2</b> no amendments	
<b>6</b>	3. Member Parliaments shall submit the names and contact information of their APA delegates to the Secretary-General in writing as soon as possible, but not later than one month prior to the commencement of the Plenary.	<b>par.3 New wording:</b> Member Parliaments shall submit the names and contact information of their APA delegates to the Secretary-General in writing as soon as possible but not later than one month prior to the commencement of a Plenary, a meeting of the Executive Council or a Standing Committee.	
<b>7</b>	4. Before completion of a two-year office as an APA delegate, if the term of office as a member of his/her national parliament is over, or if he/she is	<b>par.4 to be excluded</b>	

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

	unable, at the discretion of national parliament, to fulfill his/her obligation as a member of national parliament, or if he/she passes away, the parliament in question shall designate another delegate to APA for two years and notifies the Secretary-General accordingly.		
<b>8</b>	<p><b>RULE 2</b></p> <p><b>1.</b> Observer Parliaments of the APA may attend the open sessions of the Plenary and its committees as observers, and may only speak on the invitation of the President. They cannot vote or present candidates for elective office.</p>	<p><b>1. New wording</b> Representatives of Observer Parliaments of the APA and Observer International Organizations of the APA may attend the open sessions of the Plenary and its committees as observers, and may only speak on the invitation of the President. They cannot vote or present candidates for elective office.</p>	<p>Representatives of parliaments but not whole parliaments may attend plenary sessions and committee meetings. In addition, international organizations that can be observers need to be mentioned.</p>
<b>9</b>	<p><b>2.</b> Representatives of regional or international organizations or Inter-Parliamentary Unions may be invited, in capacity of observers, to attend the open sessions of the Plenary upon recommendation of the bureau of the previous Plenary and acknowledgment of the Plenary in which they intend to attend.</p>	<p><b>2. New wording</b> Representatives of other international or regional organizations may be invited as observers to attend open meetings of the APA by decision of the Executive Council and subject to a written notice to the President not later than one month before the meeting.</p>	
<b>10</b>	<p><b>3.</b> Application for membership or for observer status shall be submitted in writing to the president and shall be considered at the next meeting of the “Executive Council” which shall make a recommendation to the APA Plenary for a decision. Such application shall be adopted by majority vote of delegates present and voting in accordance with Rule 34(3) of this Rules of Procedure.</p>	<p><b>par.3 New wording</b> Application for a membership or observer status shall be submitted in writing to the President and shall be considered at the next meeting of the Executive Council that shall prepare recommendations for the Plenary to make a decision. Decisions on granting a membership or observer status shall be made by majority vote of the delegates participating in the vote.</p>	

		<b>par.4. New paragraph</b> Observers shall bear the costs of their participation in the APA meetings.	
<b>11</b>	<b>RULE 3</b>  APA Member Parliaments may designate former parliamentarians as well as representatives of Non-Governmental Organizations, scholars, scientists and prominent figures as honorary members of their own delegations.	<b>par.1</b> APA Member Parliaments may designate former parliamentarians as well as representatives of Non-Governmental Organizations, scholars and prominent figures as honorary members of their delegations. <b>par.2</b> Honorary members shall participate in the Plenary as observers. They do not have the right to vote. They may be given the floor by decision of the Plenary. <b>par.3</b> The costs of participation of the honorary members in the Plenary shall be borne by the party that delegated them.	

### SECTION III “On Standing Committees and Subsidiary Bodies”

This set of amendments contains proposals to regulate in more detail the activities of the standing committees and subsidiary bodies. In the current document there is one rule regulating them (Rule 15). We believe that the committees play a crucial role in the preparation of the Plenary decisions, so their activities should be regulated in more detail.

<b>12</b>	<b>IV. Standing Committees</b>	<b>II. Standing Committees, Ad Hoc Committees, Subcommittees and Subsidiary Bodies</b>	
<b>13</b>	<b>RULE 15</b> <b>1.</b> In addition to the five Standing Committees; Political, Peace and Security, Social and Cultural, Economic and Sustainable Development, and Energy, the Plenary may set up other Standing Committees, Sub- Committees, Commissions and Subsidiary Bodies as it deems necessary to deal with any subject of interests and to examine the issues on its agenda. These bodies shall submit their reports and recommendations to the Plenary	<b>RULE 4</b> <b>par.1 New wording</b> Four Standing Committees shall operate as a part of the APA, namely Political Committee, Economic and Sustainable Development Committee, Social and Cultural Committee, Budget and Rules of Procedure Committee. The Committees shall be established by decision of the Plenary based on the proposal of the Executive Council. By the decision of the Plenary based on the proposal	The current structure of the APA Standing Committees and the procedure for their establishment are set down.

	for its consideration and decision.	of the Executive Council there may be established ad hoc committees, subcommittees and other subsidiary bodies.	
14	2. Upon suggestion of the Bureau or at least 10 Member Parliaments, establishment of other Standing Committees or of SubCommittees, Commissions or Subsidiary Organs shall be put on the agenda of the Executive Council. The recommendation of the Executive Council on this issue is approved by the majority vote of the delegates present and voting in the Plenary.	<b>par.2 New wording</b> The Executive Council shall consider the issue of establishing a new committee, subcommittee or subsidiary body if the proposal was received from at least 10 delegations of the APA Member Parliaments. The delegation of the APA Member Parliament shall delegate a member of the delegation to participate in any APA committee or subsidiary body. The member of the delegation may not be denied the opportunity to participate in the work of the APA committee or subsidiary body if such member was delegated by the appropriate delegation.	This paragraph is included in order to improve guarantees for the delegations with regard to their participation in committee meetings
15	3. The inter-sessional meetings of the Sub-Committees, Commissions and Subsidiary Organs shall be convened by the Member Parliament hosting the previous Plenary, unless following mutual agreement of the President and the Permanent Secretariat, they may be hosted by another Member Parliament.	<b>par.3 New wording</b> Each Committee shall meet once a year. The place and time of the meeting, the agenda of the meeting shall be determined by the Executive Council from among the countries willing to host the Committee meeting.	The procedure for determining the date and time of meetings of the committees is specified.
16	4. Number of membership of each Sub-Committee, Commission and Subsidiary body, taking into account the equitable geographical distribution, and the duration and number of their inter-sessional meetings shall be approved by the Plenary.	<b>par.4 New wording</b> The Committee meeting shall be quorate if at least 7 delegations participate in it.	The APA practice of determining the quorum of the Committee meeting is officially set down
17		<b>par.5 New paragraph</b> The Committee shall be chaired by the Chairperson elected at the Plenary session for one year by open ballot. As a rule, the Chairperson is a member of the	The APA practice for appointing the Chairperson of the Committee is

		<p>delegation of the APA Member Parliament whose country hosts the Committee meeting.</p> <p>The Chairperson shall open, close and conduct the Committee meeting, monitor compliance with the Rules of Procedure, give the floor to speakers. The Chairperson shall have the right to interrupt the speaker if the Chairperson believes that the speech is not to the point or exceeds the time limit on speeches. The time limit on speeches shall be determined at the beginning of each meeting of the Committee by its decision.</p>	<p>officially set down. The powers of the Chairperson are specified.</p>
18		<p><b>par.6</b> The Committee shall objectively discuss the draft resolutions and amendments provided by the Secretariat, adopt the draft resolution in general and send them to the Executive Council.</p>	<p>The procedure for the Committee receiving draft resolutions and sending the approved resolutions to the Executive Council is clarified. These rules correlate with the rules of the chapter that determines the APA decision-making procedure.</p>

#### SECTION IV “On the Executive Council”

This set of amendments contains proposals to regulate the activities of the Executive Council in more detail. The Executive Council is the most important body of the APA, however, in the current Rules of Procedure only one Rule concerns its activities. It is proposed to introduce a separate chapter in the Rules of Procedure that sets down the procedure for the establishment and operation of the Executive Council. According to the current practice, the Executive Council meets twice a year, one of its meetings is held immediately before the session, and the other meeting is held approximately three months before the Plenary session.

Holding a separate meeting of the Executive Council three months before the Plenary session entails an additional financial burden on the parliament of the presiding over country as well as on parliamentary delegations of the participating countries. Also the parliamentarians have to

find additional time during the busy period of parliamentary activities. Not all parliamentarians have the opportunity to participate in this Committee meeting.

The analysis of the practice of holding meetings of the Executive Council reveals that the agendas of the two Executive Council meetings are similar, debates are conducted on the same issues and at the second meeting of the Executive Council there are presented the arguments that have been already presented at the first.

It is proposed that the Executive Council should meet **twice a year** immediately before and after the Plenary session, which will reduce the expenses of the host party and the time the delegates spend traveling.

The first meeting of the Executive Council before of the Plenary session is a “summarizer”. At this meeting there is presented the annual report of the Secretary-General on the work of the APA and reports on activities of the Committees, considered the resolutions prepared by them, made a decision on recommending these resolutions for approval by the Plenary session or returning them to the Committees for revision, finalized the agenda of the Plenary session, determined its rules of procedure, presented the annual report of the Secretary-General on budget utilization and made a decision on approval or disapproval of this report.

The second meeting of the Executive Council is a “planner”. It determines the APA work plan for the next year and the preliminary agenda for the next Plenary session based on proposals of the delegations; in accordance with this agenda there is determined the agenda of the committees and subsidiary bodies and approved the budget for next year based on the proposal of the Secretary-General.

Please note that it is the Executive Council that must make a decision on the final approval of the budget. It is not practical to consider and approve the APA budget at the Plenary session.

<b>19</b>	The section does not exist	<b>III. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL</b>	It is proposed to introduce a new section “Executive Council”
<b>20</b>	<b>RULE 7</b>	<b>RULE 5</b>	
<b>21</b>	<b>RULE 7</b> 1. Executive Council shall be composed of one APA delegate from each Member parliament.	<b>par.1 New wording</b> The Executive Council shall be composed of delegates, one member from each APA Member Parliament.	
<b>22</b>	2. Executive Council shall meet at least twice a year: once, immediately before the meeting of the Plenary, and the other normally about three months prior to the meeting of the Plenary.	<b>par.2</b> The Executive Council shall meet at least 2 times a year, with one meeting to be held immediately before the Plenary and the second meeting to be held immediately after the Plenary.	
<b>23</b>	3. The meetings of the Executive Council referred to in Paragraphs 1 and 2 above shall: * Guide the work of the Secretariat to facilitate the smooth and efficient conducting of the meeting of	<b>3. New wording</b> The Executive Council shall - guide and monitor the work of the Secretariat to ensure the efficient operation of the APA; - recommend the candidate for the post of the APA	

	<p>the Plenary,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* * Consider the reports and documents developed by the Secretariat and making appropriate recommendation to the Plenary for a decision,</li> <li>* Consider draft resolutions and making appropriate recommendations to the Plenary for a decision,</li> <li>* Consider the proposal for the establishment of a new Standing Committee or of a Sub-Committee, commission or Subsidiary Organ,</li> <li>* Consider the application for new members or observers and making appropriate recommendations to the Plenary for a decision,</li> <li>* Consider the Secretariat proposal for the provisional Draft Agenda of the Plenary and recommending a Draft Agenda to the Plenary,</li> <li>* Consider the APA budget and its finances and making appropriate recommendation to the Plenary for a decision.</li> <li>* Recommend the APA Secretary-General for approval by the Plenary.</li> </ul>	<p>Secretary-General for approval by the Plenary;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- hear the annual report of the Secretary-General on the work of the APA and make a decision on its approval or disapproval;</li> <li>- consider proposals of the Standing Committee on the Budget and Rules of Procedure to amend the Charter, Rules of Procedure, Financial Regulations and Regulations on the APA Secretariat and recommend them for inclusion in the agenda of the Plenary Session or return for revision;</li> <li>- consider proposal to establish a new standing committee, ad hoc committee, subcommittee and subsidiary body of the APA;</li> <li>- consider applications for granting a new membership or observer status and prepare the recommendations of the Plenary to make the decision;</li> <li>- the meeting of the Executive Council before the Plenary shall decide on the draft agenda of the Plenary session and recommend it to the Plenary session, consider the draft resolutions prepared by the Standing Committees and make a decision on including them in the agenda of the Plenary session or returning them to the Standing Committees for revision, determine the time limit on speeches by speakers and speeches in the debate, consider the report of the Secretary-General on budget utilization for the current year and make a decision on approval or disapproval of the report;</li> <li>- the meeting of the Executive Council immediately after the Plenary shall determines the APA work plan for the next year, the schedule of meetings and provisional agenda of the Standing Committees, the provisional agenda of the next Plenary, consider the APA draft budget for the next year and approve it;</li> </ul>	
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24	4. The decision making in the Executive Council shall be, to the extent possible, by consensus. Otherwise, the Executive Council makes decision by the majority vote of the Member Parliaments present and voting. Special cases requiring two third majorities shall be determined by the majority vote of Parliaments present and voting.	<b>par.4 New wording</b> - The Executive Council shall take decisions by a majority vote of the members that participated in the vote. - Amendments to the APA Charter shall be adopted by two-thirds of the votes given by the members that participated in the vote. - Each APA Member Parliament shall have one vote in the Executive Council. - The Executive Council meeting shall be quorate if at least seven delegations of the APA Member Parliaments participated in it.	
25	5. Each Member Parliament shall have one vote in the Executive Council.	<b>to be excluded</b>	
26	6. Quorum for convening the Plenary and for adopting a resolution outlined in Rules 32 and 33 of this Rules of Procedure shall also apply to the meetings of the Executive Council.	<b>to be excluded</b>	

### SECTION V “On the Plenary Session”

The procedure for conducting plenary sessions in the current Rules of Procedure is regulated by separate rules, which complicates their application in practice.

It is proposed to combine the rules regulating them in a separate chapter “Plenary Session”, including clarification of some aspects of organizing and conducting plenary sessions.

The essential proposal is dissolution of the Bureau as an APA body as this body has never worked in practice.

In addition, it is proposed to delete the concept of an “additional item” and leave only an “emergency item”. The authors of the amendments proceed from the fact that the Plenary should consider the pre-planned items that were elaborated in the committees and approved by the Executive Council. Outside of this procedure, an item can be included in the Plenary agenda only if a really extraordinary event occurred in some country or in the world. In this case, an emergency item may be considered. Consideration of “additional items” opens up the possibility for including in the Plenary agenda of the items that were not previously approved by the committees, which creates the risk of taking unprepared decisions.

27	<b>II Sessions</b>	<b>IV. PLENARY SESSION</b>	
28	<b>RULE 4</b>	<b>RULE 6.</b>	
29	<p><b>RULE 4</b> The Plenary shall be held annually (Article 9 of the Charter). The Plenary shall meet for two consecutive years in the country which has the presidency of the APA (Article 10 of the Charter).</p> <p><b>Note:</b> In case a host Parliament is not prepared to convene the meetings of the Executive Council and the Plenary for two consecutive years, the presidency and the hosting of those meetings may, with the concurrence of the majority of Member Parliaments, be entrusted to another Member Parliament.</p>	<p><b>New wording</b> The Plenary shall be convened annually (Article 9 of the Charter) in the country presiding over the APA.</p>	
30	<b>RULE 5</b>	<b>RULE 7</b>	
31	<p><b>RULE 5</b> After consultation with Member Parliaments, the President shall inform them about the date of each Plenary at least three months before the Plenary meets.</p>	<p><b>New wording</b> <b>par.1</b> The APA President shall inform the Secretariat about the date and place of holding the Plenary at least three months before convening the Plenary.</p> <p><b>par.2 New paragraph</b> The place and time of convening the Plenary may be changed if the presiding country withdraws from hosting it. In this case the Secretariat shall hold urgent consultations with other APA Member Parliaments and propose a new place and time to the participating countries. The proposals shall be sent in writing to each Parliament. If less than one third of the Member Parliaments voted against holding the Plenary in the new place and on the new date, the decision shall be</p>	

		<p>considered adopted. Postal vote procedure shall be used with the Member Parliaments sending letters to the Secretariat. The Parliaments shall send such letters not later than within one month after they receive the proposals.</p>	
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32	<p><b>RULE 6</b> The venue and date of the Plenary may change, in certain cases, upon proposal of the Bureau in consultation with the host Parliament, and concurrence of the majority of Member Parliaments to be determined in accordance with Rule 10(2).</p>	<p><b>To be excluded</b> (see amendment to Rule 5)</p>	
33	<p><b>RULE 16</b></p>	<p><b>RULE 8</b></p>	
34	<p><b>RULE 16</b> 1. On the recommendation of the Secretary-General, the Executive Council shall draw up a Draft Agenda, which includes a general debate, to be circulated to Member Parliaments and Observers for approval of the Plenary.</p>	<p>Par.1 The Plenary shall approve the agenda based on proposal of the Executive Council;</p>	
35	<p>2. The Draft Agenda shall be circulated to all Member Parliaments by the Secretariat at least two months before the opening of the Plenary. 3. The Plenary may alter or approve the proposed Draft Agenda at the beginning of its first meeting. 4. The extra-ordinary Plenary can only consider the item(s) for which it is convened.</p>	<p><b>Par. 2, 3 to be excluded</b></p> <p><b>Par.4. to be saved as par.2</b></p> <p><b>New paragraph.</b> <b>Par.3</b> The documents adopted by the Plenary shall be communicated to the APA Member Parliaments, their governments and international organizations.</p>	
36	<p><b>RULE 17</b> 1. Member Parliaments may submit to the Secretariat, proposals to include supplementary item(s) in the provisional agenda of the Plenary, not later than two months before the Plenary convenes. An explanatory note and a draft</p>	<p><b>(Rules 17 and 18 form a new rule):</b></p> <p><b>RULE 9</b> <b>Par.1</b> The Plenary may include in its agenda an emergency item proposed by the Executive Council. No other additional items may be included in the agenda.</p>	<p>As a rule, the items considered by the Plenary and resolutions on them should be discussed in detail in the Standing Committees, only in</p>

	<p>resolution should be attached to such proposals.</p> <p>2. A request for inclusion of a supplementary item received by the Secretariat at least 30 days before the opening of the Plenary or a request for inclusion of an emergency supplementary item relating to an event of particular importance occurring during the 30 days preceding the opening of the Plenary in order to be taken into consideration, must receive the approval of two-third majority of Member Parliaments present and voting in the Executive Council which convenes immediately before the Plenary.</p> <p><b>RULE 18</b></p> <p>Before taking a decision on a request for the inclusion of a supplementary or an emergency item referred to in Rule 17 above, the Executive Council and the Plenary shall hear a brief explanatory statement from the sponsor and a statement from one speaker holding a contrary opinion, neither may enter into the substance of the matter.</p>	<p><b>Par.2 of Rule 9 is transferred from par.2 of Rule 20:</b></p> <p>2. Additional or emergency items may be submitted by the Plenary to an ad hoc committee that shall discuss them and prepare a report and/or draft resolution for consideration by the Plenary.</p>	<p>this case a qualified decision can be made. The inclusion of an item in the session agenda without the prior discussion at meetings of the committees should be made in exceptional circumstances and relate to really emergency situations when the decision is urgent.</p>
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37	<p><b>RULE 20</b></p> <p>1. The procedure for submission of draft resolution on supplementary or emergency items shall be determined by the Plenary upon the recommendations of the Bureau.</p> <p>2. The supplementary or emergency items may be referred by the Plenary to an ad-hoc Committee, which shall debate it and prepare a report and/or a draft resolution for consideration by the Plenary.</p>	<p><b>Rule 20 par.2 becomes par.2 in RULE 9</b></p> <p><b>Par.1 to be excluded</b></p> <p><b>Par.2 remains (par.2 of Rule 9)</b></p>	<p>Due to dissolution of the Bureau as an Assembly body</p>
38	<p><b>RULE 21</b></p>	<p><b>RULE 10</b></p>	
39	<p><b>RULE 21</b></p> <p>1. The Plenary shall start by holding a general debate during which delegates may address the political, security, economic, social and cultural issues based on the Principles and Objectives of the establishment of the APA in its Charter (Articles 2 and 3 of the Charter).</p> <p>2. The Plenary shall promote friendly and constructive dialogue. To this end, bilateral contentious issues shall be excluded.</p>	<p><b>Par. 1, 2 remain from Rule 21</b></p> <p><b>Additional par.3:</b>  <b>Par.3</b> The Plenary shall consider and adopt resolutions proposed by the Executive Council. The Plenary may adopt or reject the resolution as a whole. Amendments to the resolution shall not be considered.</p>	
40	<p><b>VII. Speaking – Order – Procedural Motions</b></p>	<p><b>To be excluded</b></p>	<p>Provisions of this section should be included in the Plenary Session section.</p>
41	<p><b>RULE 26</b></p>	<p><b>RULE 11</b></p>	

<p><b>42</b></p>	<p><b>RULE 26</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No delegate may speak without permission of the President.</li> <li>2. Delegates shall, as a general rule, speak in the order in which they have asked for the floor.</li> <li>3. Speakers may only be interrupted by other Delegates on a point of order. They may, with the President's permission yield the floor to other Delegate(s) raising a point of order to seek clarification.</li> <li>4. The President shall rule immediately, without debate, on all points of order.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Par. 1, 2, 4 remain</b></p> <p><b>par.2 New wording</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Delegates shall, as a general rule, speak in the order in which they asked to be given the floor and within the time allocated for the debate. The delegates that did not have the floor during the time allocated for the debate may submit written texts of their speeches to the Plenary.</li> </ol> <p><b>par.3 New wording</b></p> <p>The Chairperson of the session may admonish the speaker and interrupt the speaker in case of deviation from the subject of the debate, breach of ethical standards, exceeding the time limit on speeches.</p>	
<p><b>43</b></p>	<p><b>RULE 27</b></p>	<p><b>RULE 12</b></p>	
<p><b>44</b></p>	<p><b>RULE 27</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No more than two representatives of each delegation may speak in the General Debate. Unless the Bureau decides otherwise, every delegation shall be entitled to 10 minutes speaking time in the General Debate. When two speakers from the same delegation are registered for this debate, they shall share the speaking time in the most appropriate way.</li> <li>2. With a view to ensuring the smooth running of the debates, the Bureau may alter the above speaking time to suit the circumstances.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Par.1 New wording</b></p> <p>Only one representative of each delegation may speak on each item on the agenda of the Plenary. The delegation shall send a request for taking the floor to the Chairperson or to the Secretariat.</p> <p><b>Par. 2, 3 to be excluded</b></p>	

	<p><b>3.</b> Notwithstanding the provision of paragraph 1 above, the President may, at the end of the corresponding sitting, give the floor, for three minutes, to a delegate wishing to exercise his/her right of reply.</p>		
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45	<p><b>RULE 28</b></p> <p>The President shall call a speaker to order when the latter does not keep to the subject under discussion or prejudice the debate by using abusive language or raising divisive issues. The President may, if necessary, withdraw permission to speak and may have the objectionable words omitted from the record.</p> <p><b>RULE 29</b></p> <p>1. The President shall deal immediately with any incident, which may arise during the meeting and, if necessary, taking necessary measure required to restore the smooth working of the Plenary.</p>	<b>Rules 28-29 to be excluded</b>	Norms are specified in the new wording of par.26 (11) (amendment No.....)
46	<b>RULE 30</b>	<b>RULE 13</b>	
47	<p><b>RULE 30</b></p> <p>1. Priority to speak shall be given to delegates wishing to propose:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Adjournment of the debate sine die;</li> <li>b) Adjournment of the debate;</li> <li>c) Closure of the list of speakers;</li> <li>d) Closure or adjournment of the meeting;</li> <li>e) Any other motion concerning the conduct of the meeting.</li> </ol> <p>2. These procedural motions shall have priority over the substantive questions; debate on the latter shall be suspended while the formers are being considered.</p> <p>3. The mover shall make a brief presentation of the motion without entering into the substance of</p>	Text of Rules 30 – 33 (13- no amendments)	

	<p>the question under debate.</p> <p>4. In the debate of procedural motions, only the mover of the proposal and one delegate holding a contrary opinion shall be heard after which the Plenary shall decide.</p>		
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48	<b>RULE 31</b>	<b>RULE 14</b>	
49	<p><b>RULE 31</b></p> <p>Debates of the Plenary shall be public. They shall be held in private only if the Plenary so decides by a two-thirds majority of delegates present and voting.</p>	No amendments to the text of the Rule	
50	<b>RULE 32</b>	<b>RULE 15</b>	
51	<p><b>RULE 32</b></p> <p>1. The Plenary shall only convene if at least half of its Member Parliaments are represented.</p> <p>2. The quorum shall be established on the basis of number of delegations represented at the first plenary meeting. This quorum shall be announced by the Secretariat at that time.</p>	No amendments to the text of the Rule	
52	<b>RULE 33</b>	<b>RULE 16</b>	
53	<p><b>RULE 33</b></p> <p>1. All resolutions and decisions of the Plenary shall be adopted, to the extent possible, by consensus. Otherwise, they shall be adopted by majority vote of delegates present and voting (Article 11 of the Charter), except where a higher majority is expressly required.</p> <p>2. Further to cases provided in this Rule, the Plenary may decide, by majority vote of delegates present and voting, that on a specific subject a higher majority is required (Article 11 of the Charter).</p>	No amendments to the text of the Rule	

54	<b>RULE 34</b>	<b>RULE 17</b>	
55	<p><b>RULE 34</b></p> <p>1. Each delegation has voting rights corresponding to the number of its delegates to the plenary; one vote for each of its delegates (Article 8 of the Charter).</p> <p>2. Only delegates present in person shall have the right to vote.</p> <p>3. The President/Speaker of a Member Parliament leading the delegation to a Plenary shall be entitled to one vote in addition to the votes which that Member Parliament already enjoys under Paragraph 1 above.</p>	No amendments to the text of the Rule	
56	<p><b>RULE 35</b></p> <p>A table giving the number of votes to which each Member of the Plenary is entitled shall be distributed at the opening of the Plenary.</p>	<p><b>RULE 18</b></p> <p><b>New wording:</b> A table giving the number of votes to which each Member of the Plenary is entitled shall be distributed at the opening of the Plenary.</p>	
57	<p><b>RULE 36</b></p> <p>1. The Plenary shall normally vote by show of hands or standing. However, if the President deems it necessary or a delegate so requests a vote by roll call, electronic device or secret ballot may be taken.</p> <p>2. In counting the number of votes by “delegates present and voting”, only the affirmative and negative votes shall be counted as voting.</p> <p>3. If the votes are equally divided, the proposal under consideration shall be considered as rejected.</p>	<p><b>RULE 19</b></p> <p>No amendments to the text of the Rule</p>	

58	<p><b>RULE 37</b></p> <p>1. Where consensus is not reached, the Plenary shall vote on the texts of the decisions or resolutions submitted by the Standing Committees, without holding a debate on their substance.</p> <p>2. No debate may be opened nor vote taken on a question which the Plenary has considered and on which it has taken a decision. In exceptional cases, the Plenary may decide, by a two-third majority of the delegates present and voting, to re-open the debate and reconsider a decision already taken.</p>	<p><b>RULE 20</b></p> <p>1. <b>New wording:</b> Where consensus is not reached, the Plenary shall vote on the texts of the decisions or resolutions submitted by the Executive Council, without holding a debate on their substance.</p> <p>2. <b>The word “meeting” is replaced by the word “session”</b></p>	
59	<p><b>RULE 38</b></p> <p>1. Any delegate may request that part, or each paragraph, of a text submitted to the Plenary is put to the vote separately.</p> <p>2. If any objection is raised, the request for division shall be voted upon without debate.</p>	<p><b>RULE 21</b></p>	
60	<p><b>RULE 39</b></p>	<p><b>RULE 22</b></p>	
61	<p><b>RULE 39</b></p> <p>1. Nobody may interrupt a voting process once it has commenced, except to obtain clarification as to the manner in which the voting is being conducted.</p> <p>2. Delegates who wish to explain their vote briefly may be authorized to do so by the President, after voting has taken place.</p> <p>3. No explanation of vote shall be admissible on amendments and procedural motions.</p>	<p>Par.1 remains</p> <p>Par. 2-3 to be excluded</p>	<p>Motives behind voting decisions are explained by delegates during debate or in writing</p>

62	<b>X. Close of the plenary</b>	<b>Title to be excluded</b>	A separate chapter seems unnecessary because this issue relates to the procedure for conducting the session
63	<b>RULE 46</b>	<b>RULE 23</b>	
64	<p><b>RULE 46</b></p> <p>1. At the close of each Plenary, the President shall enumerate the principal resolutions and decisions adopted.</p> <p>2. Delegations shall inform their respective parliaments and governments of the resolutions, decisions and recommendations adopted by the Plenary with a view to obtaining the most active possible support for the implementation of these resolutions and decisions.</p>	<p><b>New wording:</b></p> <p><b>Par.1.</b> At the close of each Plenary, the Chairperson shall enumerate the principal resolutions and decisions adopted and pass the chairmanship.</p> <p><b>Par.2.</b> remains</p>	We consider it important to set down the fact of passing the chairmanship at the end of the Plenary.
65		<b>NEW RULE 24</b>	
66		<p><b>RULE 24</b></p> <p>Each delegation shall have the right to propose to the Executive Council to include an emergency item in the Plenary agenda. Only one emergency item may be included in the Plenary agenda.</p> <p>If there are several proposals on an emergency item, then the proposal that received the most votes given by those who participated in the vote shall be included in the agenda.</p> <p>A delegation proposing to the Standing Committee to consider an emergency item shall simultaneously submit a written draft resolution on the item.</p>	
67	<b>RULE 10</b>	<b>RULE 25</b>	

68	<p><b>RULE 10</b></p> <p>1. Any Member of the APA may request the convening of an extraordinary Plenary. The Member Parliament that hosted the previous Plenary shall convene the extra-ordinary Plenary if the request is supported by the majority of Member Parliaments (Article 9 of the Charter). The extra-ordinary Plenary may be hosted by a different Parliament if such request is agreed to by the President of APA who hosted the previous Plenary and by the majority of Member parliaments.</p> <p>2. Support for convening of the extra-ordinary Plenary and, where appropriate for its venue, is determined on the basis of no-objection of the majority of the Member Parliaments in response to a written notice from the Secretariat to all Member Parliaments seeking their views on the subject(s) by a certain date. Unless more than half the numbers of Member Parliaments object, in writing to the Secretariat, to the convening of the extra-ordinary Plenary or to its venue, it will be regarded that the majority of Member Parliaments have supported the convening of the extra-ordinary Plenary.</p>	<p><b>No amendments to the text of the Rule</b></p> <p>(In a Russian translation the word “meeting” is replaced by the word “session”)</p>	
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### SECTION VI “On Duties of the President”

This set of amendments specifies the status of the President of the APA. It is proposed to shorten a country’s presidency of the APA to one year. Two-year presidency is burdensome for some countries and hinders the rotation of the APA presidency.

<b>69</b>	<b>III. Presidency</b>	<b>V. President of the Assembly</b>	
<b>70</b>		<b>RULE 26</b>	
<b>71</b>	<p>1. The President of the Assembly shall be elected from amongst the Presidents/Speakers of the Member Parliaments for two years, by acclamation or by the majority vote of the delegates present and voting, at the beginning of the first meeting of the Plenary.</p> <p>2. The outgoing President or, in his/her absence, the head of the delegation of the outgoing President, shall open the inaugural Session, pending the election of the new President.</p> <p>3. The Plenary shall also elect four Vice-Presidents (Article 10 of the Charter) from among the heads of delegations as well as a Rapporteur from among delegates, bearing in mind equitable geographical distribution.</p>	<p><b>1. New wording:</b> The President of the APA shall be elected for one year from amongst the Chairpersons/Speakers of the Member Parliaments by acclamation or by a majority vote of the delegates present and voting at the beginning of the first meeting of the Plenary.</p> <p><b>2. New wording:</b> The Chairperson shall exercise his/her powers from the close of the Plenary at which he/she was elected until the close of the next Plenary. The Chairperson may delegate his/her powers to a member of the parliament of his/her country for such member of the parliament to perform the functions of the Chairperson.</p> <p><b>New paragraph.</b> 4. The Chairperson may entrust conduct of the meeting to one of deputies.</p>	Due to shortening a country’s parliament presidency of the APA to one year
<b>72</b>	<b>RULE 12</b>	<b>RULE 27</b>	
<b>73</b>	<p><b>RULE 12 - remains</b> The President of the Assembly shall preside over the extra-ordinary Plenary Session(s) during his/her term of office.</p>	No amendments to the text of the Rule	
<b>74</b>	<p><b>RULE 13 –</b> 1. The Bureau of the Assembly shall be</p>	<b>to be excluded</b>	No real functions, never met, no need

	<p>composed of the President of the Assembly, the four Vice-Presidents and a Rapporteur, who shall be elected for a two-year term on the basis of equitable geographical distribution.</p> <p>2. The Bureau of the Assembly, which shall be assisted by the Secretary-General, shall take all appropriate measures to ensure the effective organization and normal functioning of the plenary proceedings, in accordance with the Charter and the Rules of Procedure.</p>		for its existence as a body
75	<b>RULE 14</b>	<b>RULE 28</b>	
76	<p><b>RULE 14</b></p> <p>1. The President shall open, suspend and close the sittings, direct the work of the Plenary, ensure respect for the Rules, call upon speakers, put questions to vote, announce the results of the voting and declare the Plenary closed. The President's decisions in these matters shall be final.</p> <p>2. The President shall decide on APA matters not covered by these Rules, after having the advice of the Bureau.</p>	<p><b>1. New wording</b> During the Plenary Session the Chairperson shall open, adjourn and close meetings, direct the work of the Plenary, ensure respect for the Rules, call upon speakers, put questions to vote, announce the results of the voting and declare the Plenary closed. Decisions of the Chairperson in these matters shall be final.</p> <p><b>2. New wording</b> The Chairperson shall make decisions on the APA issues not covered by these Rules after consultation with the APA Member Parliaments.</p>	

## **SECTION VII “ON THE APA DECISION-MAKING PROCEDURE”**

This set of amendments is of fundamental importance. Unfortunately, there were situations when amendments proposed by a country were not considered due to an unclear procedure for proposing resolutions and amendments to them. In particular, at the Executive Council meetings amendments proposed by some countries are considered under the pretext that they are “technical” and other amendments are not considered because they are “substantive”. But which of them are technical and which are substantive is determined by a representative of the Secretariat. This infringes the rights of the delegations. We agree that the amendments, both substantive and technical, should be considered by the standing committees. In order to avoid manipulation, no amendments at all should be considered at the Executive Council meetings since within the Rules of Procedure it is impossible to define clear criteria for distinguishing between “technical” and “substantive” amendments.

The Executive Council should either approve the resolution as a whole and recommend it for inclusion in the Plenary agenda or send it to the standing committee for revision. In addition to the resolution, the APA Plenary may adopt a declaration. It is proposed to regulate the procedure for the adoption.

77	<b>VI. Amendments</b>	<b>VI PROCEDURE FOR ADOPTING RESOLUTIONS, DECLARATIONS AND OTHER DECISIONS BY THE APA</b>	
78	<p><b>RULE 19</b></p> <p>1. Any delegate may submit a motion or a draft resolution on any subject included in the agenda.</p> <p>2. Draft resolution(s) relating to the items in the agenda shall, as a general rule, be deposited with the Secretariat at least 24 hours before the opening of the last plenary sitting allocated for the discussion of that item.</p>	<b>To be excluded</b>	
79	<b>RULE 22</b>	<b>RULE 29</b>	
80	<p><b>RULE 22</b></p> <p>1. Any delegate may submit amendment(s) to a motion, or a draft resolution, as well as to sub-amendments.</p> <p>2. Amendments shall be submitted in writing. Amendments and sub- amendments may be submitted until the Plenary adopts the texts to which they relate.</p> <p><b>RULE 23</b></p> <p>1. Amendments and sub-amendments shall relate to the text. They may call for an addition, a deletion or an alteration with regard to the initial draft, without changing its scope or nature. The President of the Plenary shall determine whether or not amendments and subamendments, which are to be voted on in the plenary sitting, are in order.</p> <p>2. Amendments and sub-amendments shall be</p>	<p>1. Proposals regarding the subjects discussed at meetings of the committees, the APA Plenary, declarations shall be submitted only by national delegations to the Executive Council. Delegations may also propose draft resolutions.</p> <p>2. Proposals shall be sent to the Secretariat. The Secretary-General shall immediately present all the received proposals or draft documents at the next meeting of the Executive Council.</p> <p><b>RULE 30</b></p> <p>The Executive Council shall make a decision on establishing the agenda of the meeting of each committee and the Plenary based on proposals from the delegations. If the delegation did not submit a draft resolution, the Executive Council shall request the Secretariat to prepare a draft resolution on the item.</p> <p>Only the Executive Council (and not the Secretariat) can determine the procedure for addressing each item on the agenda of the committee meeting and the Plenary and each resolution. The</p>	

	<p>voted before the text to which they relate.</p> <p><b>RULE 24</b></p> <p>1. If two or more amendments apply to the same words in a draft resolution, that which is furthest from the text under consideration shall have priority over the others and shall be put to the vote first. The president’s decision regarding the priority of the amendments shall be final.</p> <p>2. If two or more amendments are mutually exclusive, the adoption of the first shall involve the rejection of the other amendment or amendments bearing on the same words.</p> <p><b>RULE 25</b></p> <p>The only speakers on an amendment or sub-amendment shall be the sponsor and one delegate holding a contrary opinion, unless the President decides that two would speak in favor and two against the amendment or sub-amendment.</p>	<p>Secretariat shall not have the right to include in the agenda at its discretion any issues not approved by the Executive Council and exclude from the agenda of the committee meeting or the Plenary the items approved for consideration by the Executive Council.</p> <p><b>RULE 31</b></p> <p>The Executive Council shall make a decision on forwarding the draft resolutions to the relevant committees and determine a date for the committee meeting as well as require that the draft resolutions should be sent to the APA Member Parliaments not later than within 30 days before the meeting of the committee.</p> <p>The draft resolutions shall be sent by the Secretariat following the decision of the Executive Council.</p> <p><b>RULE 32</b></p> <p>Delegations of the Member Parliaments shall send to the Secretariat their written amendments to the resolutions not later than within 14 days before the meeting of the committee.</p> <p>The Secretariat shall present at the meeting of the committee all the draft resolutions and all amendments to them without exception.</p> <p>The Secretariat shall not, at its discretion, include or exclude resolutions and amendments to them from the agenda of the meeting of the committee.</p>	
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81		<p><b>RULE 33</b></p> <p>Draft resolutions and amendments shall be discussed by the committee substantively. Each delegation shall have the right to have the floor not more than twice to present a general evaluation of each resolution and explain the motives behind voting decisions.</p> <p>The delegation proposing the amendment shall have the right to take the floor once to present the rationale behind the amendment. Each delegation may have the floor once in discussing each amendment.</p> <p>Any failure by representatives of the delegation to attend the meeting of the committee shall not constitute the grounds for non-acceptance of the draft resolution and amendments for consideration.</p> <p>The committee may decide to establish a consensus commission to prepare the text of the resolution or certain amendment.</p>	
82		<p><b>RULE 34</b></p> <p>Amendments shall be adopted by open ballot based on a majority vote of the representatives of the Member Parliament delegations of the committee that participated in the vote and one delegation shall have one vote.</p> <p>The resolution as a whole shall be adopted at a meeting of the committee by open ballot based on a majority vote of the attending representatives of the Member Parliament delegations.</p>	
83		<p><b>RULE 35</b></p> <p>The Secretariat shall submit the whole resolution adopted by the committee, without amendments and additions, for consideration at the Executive Council meeting held the day before the Plenary.</p> <p>The Secretariat cannot decide, at its discretion,</p>	

		not to submit to the Executive Committee a resolution adopted by the standing committee or submit a resolution in a form that was not approved by the standing committee.	
84		<p><b>RULE 36</b></p> <p>The Executive Council shall consider draft resolutions received from the committees. The Executive Council shall not consider amendments to draft resolutions, evaluate the resolutions as a whole and make a decision on including them in the Plenary agenda or returning them for revision.</p>	It demonstrates the current APA practice when the Executive Council does not consider the substantive amendments. The authors of the amendments believe that the Executive Council should not consider any amendments, including the so-called technical ones. Otherwise, it creates the possibility of manipulation by the Secretariat when amendments of some countries are considered, as they say, technical, and amendments of other countries are rejected.
85		<p><b>RULE 37</b></p> <p>The Plenary may make a decision on approving the draft resolutions without discussion or opening a debate on them. Draft resolutions shall be adopted by open ballot based on a majority vote given by the</p>	

		delegations that participated in the vote.	
86		<p><b>RULE 38</b></p> <p>The presiding country may propose to adopt a Declaration. The draft declaration shall be sent to the Member Parliaments not later than one month before the Plenary opening.</p> <p>Delegations shall have the right to submit their amendments to the draft declaration to the Executive Council meeting held immediately before the Plenary. The Executive Council shall consider the amendments and approve the final draft of the Declaration by a majority vote given by the attending members and include it in the Plenary agenda.</p> <p>The Plenary shall approve the Declaration by a majority vote given by the attending members.</p>	

**SECTION VIII “On the Secretariat”**

87	<b>IX. Permanent and Provisional Secretariats</b>	<b>VII. Secretariat</b>	We propose to exclude the mention of the provisional secretariat as it is never created
88	<p><b>RULE 40</b></p> <p><b>RULE 40</b></p> <p>The Headquarters of the APA Permanent Secretariat shall be at Tehran. The Plenary shall decide on the relevant budgetary and personnel issues for the Permanent Secretariat by the year 2011.</p>	<p><b>RULE 39</b></p> <p><b>The second sentence should be excluded.</b></p> <p><b>New wording:</b> The Headquarters of the APA Permanent Secretariat shall be located in Tehran.</p>	
89	<p>2. <b>Explanatory Note:</b> It is agreed that the Draft Rules of Procedure with amendments and additions shall be recommended to the Plenary convened in November 2007 for consideration and</p>	<b>To be excluded</b>	

	adoption provided that the Executive Council that meets immediately before the Plenary considers the new proposals regarding additional powers of the Permanent and Provisional Secretariats.		
<b>90</b>	<b>RULE 41</b>	<b>RULE 40</b>	
<b>91</b>	<b>RULE 41</b>  The President of the APA shall organize a Provisional Secretariat in the host country to convene the Executive Council and the Plenary.	<b>New wording</b> The APA President in cooperation with the APA Secretariat shall be responsible for organizing and holding meetings of the Executive Council and the Plenary. If a meeting of the Executive Council or the Plenary is held in another country, then the chairperson of the parliament of that country shall be responsible for organizing and holding them.	
		<b>New paragraph</b> The Chairperson of the APA Standing Committee shall be responsible for organizing and holding meetings of the Standing Committee in cooperation with the APA Secretariat.	
<b>92</b>	<b>RULE 8</b> 1. The convocation of each Plenary shall be sent to all Member Parliaments, Observers and other invitees, at least one month before the commencement of the Plenary. <b>RULE 9</b> The member parliament hosting the Plenary shall be responsible for providing all necessary facilities for the Plenary. Other Member Parliaments may offer to bear part of the expenses in organizing a Plenary Session.	<b>To be excluded</b>	
<b>93</b>		<b>RULE 41</b>	
<b>94</b>		<b>New Rule</b> Notices of convening each meeting shall be sent to	

		all Member Parliaments, Observers and other invitees at least one month before such meeting.	
95	<p><b>RULE 42</b></p> <p>1. The Permanent Secretariat, headed by a Secretary-General shall assist the President and the Provisional Secretariat in directing the work of the Executive Council and the Plenary.</p> <p>2. The Secretary-General or his representative may at any time, at the request of the President, submit to the plenary advice on any question which the meeting has under consideration.</p>	<b>To be excluded</b>	Consultations of the Secretary-General and assistance of the APA Secretariat are obvious and do not require to be specifically set down in the Rules of Procedure.
96	<b>RULE 43</b>	<b>RULE 42</b>	
97	<p><b>RULE 43</b></p> <p>1. The Permanent Secretariat shall receive all documents, reports and draft resolutions and distribute them, together with the summary records of the sittings in the working language of the APA and in Arabic.</p> <p>2. The Permanent Secretariat of the Plenary shall ensure the adequacy of the technical facilities for simultaneous English and Arabic translation and for delegates wishing to speak in their own language and provide their own simultaneous English interpreters.</p> <p>3. The Provisional Secretariat shall ensure, in coordination with the Permanent Secretariat, that adequate facilities for the convenience of the Delegates and smooth fulfillment of their obligations are available in the Host Country.</p>	<p><b>The word “permanent” should be excluded</b></p> <p><b>1. New wording</b> The APA Secretariat shall receive and process all documents, reports and draft resolutions and distribute them together with brief reports on meetings in the APA official and working languages.</p> <p><b>2. New wording</b> The Parliament of the country hosting the Plenary or meetings of the Executive Council or the Standing Committee shall create the necessary working environment including the provision of the necessary premises, technical equipment, simultaneous interpretation into the APA official languages, accommodation and meals for the delegates for the duration of the meetings taking into account one day of arrival and one day of departure. Equipment for simultaneous interpretation into national languages shall be provided on request.</p>	Since the concept of “Permanent Secretariat” was excluded
98	<b>RULE 44</b>	<b>RULE 43</b>	
99	<b>RULE 44</b>	<b>The word “permanent” should be excluded, the phrase “standing committees” should be added</b>	

	<p>1. The Permanent Secretariat of the APA shall preserve the documents of the Executive Council and the Plenary in its archives. The Permanent Secretariat shall follow up on the implementation of the decisions of the plenary and, in general, carry out all the tasks, which the Plenary may think fit to entrust to it. (Article 13 of the Charter).</p> <p>2. The Permanent Secretariat shall publish documents of the Plenary and distribute them among Member Parliaments and Observers.</p>	<p>1. <b>New wording:</b> The APA Secretariat shall keep documents of the Standing Committees, the Executive Council and the Plenary in its archives. The Secretariat shall ensure the complete implementation of decisions of the Plenary and perform all the tasks that the Plenary may consider appropriate to assign to it. (Article 13 of the Charter).</p> <p><b>Par.2 New wording</b> The documents adopted by the Plenary shall be communicated by the APA Secretariat to the APA Member Parliaments, their governments and international organizations and shall be published.</p>	
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<b>100</b>	<b>RULE 45</b>	<b>RULE 44</b>	
<b>101</b>	<p><b>RULE 45</b></p> <p>Upon recommendation of the Executive Council and approval of the Plenary, the Secretary-General shall be elected for a four-year term from among prominent figures in various sub-regions of Asia.</p>	<p><b>New paragraphs</b></p> <p>1. The APA Secretary General shall be elected for a term of 4 years.</p> <p>2. A candidate for the post of the Secretary-General shall have experience working as a member of the parliament or in the apparatus of the parliament or in an international parliamentary organization.</p> <p>3. Each delegation of the APA Member Parliament may nominate its candidate for the post of the Secretary-General not later than 2 months before the election date by submitting an official nomination application signed by the President of the Parliament and accompanied by a short biography of the candidate.</p> <p>4. The Executive Council shall consider the candidates in terms of their compliance with the requirements of the Charter and the Rules of Procedure and recommend them to the Plenary. The Plenary shall make a decision on the election of the Secretary-General by a majority vote of the delegates present. If the Executive Council recommended more than one candidate to the Plenary, the election shall be held by secret ballot. The election may be held by open ballot if there is one candidate and no delegation insists on a secret ballot.</p> <p>5. The Secretary-General shall take office 14 days after the election. His/her powers shall be terminated 14 days after the election of a new Secretary-General.</p>	<p>We propose to exclude the mention of “prominent figures”, each delegation will provide an evaluation of the candidate qualities at the time of voting.</p>
<b>102</b>		<p><b>RULE 45</b></p> <p>One person cannot hold office of the Secretary-General for more than two consecutive terms.</p> <p>A representative of one APA Member Parliament cannot hold office of the Secretary-General for more than two consecutive terms.</p>	

103		<p><b>RULE 46</b></p> <p>In case of breaches of the APA Charter, APA Financial Regulations, disapproval of the APA annual budget utilization report, regular breaches of the APA Rules of Procedure, entry into legal force of a court verdict, the powers of the Secretary-General may be terminated by decision of the APA Plenary by a majority vote given by the attending delegates of the APA Member Parliaments.</p> <p>In this case the termination of powers of the Secretary-General shall take immediate effect. The Executive Council shall nominate some other employee of the Secretariat to act as the Secretary-General until the election of a new Secretary-General.</p>	
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**SECTION VIII “On Amendments to the Rules of Procedure”**

104	<b>XI. Adoption and Amendment of the Rules</b>	<b>New title “Amendments to the Rules of Procedure”</b>	
105	<b>RULE 47</b>	<b>RULE 47</b>	
106	<p><b>RULE 47</b></p> <p>1. The Plenary shall adopt its Rules of Procedure by a majority vote of the delegates present and voting in accordance with Rule 33 of this Rules of Procedure.</p>	<p><b>Par.1</b> Proposals of the delegations regarding amendments to the Rules of Procedure shall be sent to the Executive Council that includes them in the agenda of the nearest meeting of the Budget and Rules of Procedure Committee. The Budget and Rules of Procedure Committee shall make a decision on approving or disapproving the proposed amendments and forward them to the Executive Council. The Executive Council shall consider the recommendation of the Budget and Rules of Procedure Committee and make a decision on including the amendments in the agenda of the Plenary or returning the amendments to the Rules of Procedure (draft new Rules of Procedure) to the Budget and Rules of Procedure Committee for</p>	

		revision.	
<b>107</b>	2. Proposals for amending the Rules of Procedure of the APA Plenary shall be formulated in writing with an explanatory note and sent to the Secretariat of the APA at least three months before the plenary meets. The Secretariat shall communicate such proposals immediately to all Member Parliaments. It shall also, if necessary, communicate to Member Parliaments any proposals for subamendments at least one month before the meeting of the Plenary.	<b>New wording:</b> <b>Par.2.</b> The proposals regarding amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the APA Plenary shall be made in writing and accompanied by an explanatory memorandum.	
<b>108</b>	3. Consideration of any request to amend the Rules of Procedure shall be included automatically in the agenda of the Executive Council and the Plenary.	<b>Par.3</b> to be excluded	
<b>109</b>	4. Proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure are adopted by the two-third majority vote of Member Parliaments present and voting in the Executive Council. The recommendation of the Executive Council to the Plenary on the proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure is adopted by majority vote of delegates present and voting in the Plenary.	<b>Par.4. New wording 3.</b> The Plenary shall adopt amendments to the Rules of Procedure by a majority vote of the members that participated in the vote.	