



Decision

APA/Decision/2020/01
15 December 2020

The Bureau of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, comprising of Parliamentary representatives from:

- Turkey, APA President
 - Bahrain, V.P./Chair of Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development
 - Iran, V.P./Chair of Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs
 - Iraq, V.P./Chair of Standing Committee on Political Affairs
 - Russia, V.P./Chair of Standing Committee on Budget and Planning
 - Indonesia, Rapporteur of the 12th Plenary
- at its meeting of 15 December 2020 in Ankara, Turkey,

Considering

- A) that the world is currently faced with a critical health crisis due to the Covid-19 pandemic,
- B) that APA, like other organizations, is committed to resume its activities virtually, under any circumstances and until the normalcy prevails,
- C) that convening official meetings both in physical (as a priority) and Virtual nature is of utmost importance,

Decides

- 1- that in-person meetings should be resumed as soon as the pandemic situation permits
- 2- that Virtual meetings should be given the same status as those of the physical meetings
- 3- that the Virtual meetings should be held, through reliable, easily accessible and secured platform
- 4- that the English would be the working language for Virtual meetings
- 5- that the “*Special Rules of Procedure to Regulate the Conduct of APA Virtual Sessions*”, be adopted as attached. The Rules of Procedure of APA shall continue to apply in full, except to the extent that they are inconsistent with these Special Rules of Procedure.



Special Rules of Procedure to Regulate the Conduct of APA Virtual Meetings*

1. Agenda:

The provisional agenda of virtual sessions shall be determined within the virtual limitations and in consultation with Chair of the relevant Standing Committee as well as Executive Council.

2. Attendance

The attendance by Members shall be through a secured access to video conference or other electronic means allowing representatives to hear other participants and to address the meeting remotely as appropriate.

3. Registration

Registration will take place through an online system in accordance with established practice. Each APA member participating in the session will communicate in writing, the name, gender and contact details of its representatives to the APA Secretariat.

4. Quorum

The number of registered members for the APA Virtual Sessions, as indicated in Rule 32 of the APA Rules of Procedure, shall be used to establish the quorum.

5. Addressing APA Sessions

Members, are invited to submit written or pre-recorded video statements in English (the working language of APA) with an indication of the agenda item to which they refer, in advance of the opening of the sessions. During the virtual session, statements by members shall be limited to two minutes. Any member wishing to take the floor should signal their wish to speak. A member wishing to raise a point of order in relation to a statement made during the session should signal their intention to do so. Delegates shall, as a general rule, speak in the order in which they have asked for the floor based on the Rule 26 of the APA Rules of Procedure.

6. Participation at Meetings

All virtual meetings of the APA shall be open to Member and Observer Parliaments of APA.

7. Submission of Proposals

Any delegation may submit amendment(s) to a draft resolution in writing in accordance with Rule 22 of the APA Rules of Procedure. Members should make every effort to arrive at an agreed proposal through informal consultations before the virtual sessions.

8. Decision Making

All decisions taken in a virtual session shall be, as far as possible, adopted by consensus. In view of the virtual nature of the session and of technical limitations, if a vote was required, the APA Rules of Procedure shall be followed.

* Attachment of the decision number: APA/Decision/2020/01