



## Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs

(Virtual Meeting)

Tehran, Iran

14 July 2021

# Final Report

The Virtual Meeting of Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs was held on July 14, 2021 in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Meeting hosted by Islamic Parliament of Iran and parliamentary delegations from following 25 member countries participated in the Meeting:

Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Lao PDR, Lebanon, Mongolia, Pakistan, Palestine, Philippines, Palau, Russia, Syria, Thailand, Turkey, UAE, Vietnam and Yemen. ([Attachment I](#))

### Opening Session:

A message from Dr. GHALIBAF, Speaker of the Islamic Parliament of Iran was delivered by his advisor. ([Attachment II](#))

### 1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Member Parliaments unanimously adopted the Draft Agenda. Agenda and Program of Work are attached. ([Attachment III](#))

### 2. Opening remarks by the Chairperson

H.E. Dr. Ms. PASHAEE BAHARAM, Head of APA Parliamentary Group of Parliament of Iran, as the Chairperson of the meeting welcomed all participants. ([Attachment IV](#))

### 3. Statement by the Representative of the APA President

H.E. Mrs. A. ERDOGAN the representative of the APA President presented her statement. ([Attachment V](#))

### 4. Report of the APA Secretary General

Dr. MAJIDI, APA Secretary General reported on the certain outstanding features of the Standing Committee resolutions and the challenges and innovative ideas.

[\(Attachment VI\)](#)

## **5. Consideration of the Situation of Women Parliamentarians in Asia:**

APA by /Res/2014/16, decided to establish Special Committee of APA women parliamentarians under the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs.

The following member parliaments presented their views on this agenda item: Iran, Pakistan, Philippines, Yemen, Bangladesh, and U.A.E. The statements covered issues such as: Women and family-based economy, Empowering women in Judiciary, Governments and Legislative branches...damages done to the economic status of women and girls due to pandemic...statistics on women employments and entrepreneur...the situation of women under sanctions...Gender equality and Justice...percentage of women representation in parliaments... etc.

## **6. Consideration and Recommendations on the Draft Resolutions:**

The Chair stated that participants should have received and studied the draft Resolutions as well as relevant amendments prior to attending the meeting. She continued saying that more than 240 amendments to 13 resolutions were offered by participants and thus ruled that new amendments will be addressed after dealing with all written ones, if time allows. She also requested the Participants to avoid raising disputable and challenging views due to limitation we face by the virtual nature of the meeting.

The following documents were attended one by one and in each draft resolution, the authors of amendments presented their contributions in order to improve the content of the documents.

After extensive debates and exchange of views, the draft resolutions were adopted by consensus and/or differed for further and closer consideration to the next meeting of Standing Committee. (A number of reservations were registered on the content of some paragraphs of the resolutions which are indicated as footnotes).

1. Draft Resolution on Measures to Promote Cultural Diversity and Protect Cultural Heritage in Asia
2. Draft Resolution on Asian Integration through Information and Communication Technology
3. Draft Resolution on Collaboration on Health Equity in Asia
4. Draft Resolution on Asian Parliamentarians against Corruption
5. Draft Resolution of APA Women Parliamentarians
6. Draft Resolution on Promoting Inter-Faith Dialogue and Harmony among World Religions
7. Draft Resolution on Legal and Legislative Cooperation in Combating the Smuggling of Cultural Items in Asia

8. Draft Resolution on Effective Cooperation in Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking in Asia
9. Draft Resolution on Humanitarian Aid to Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Gaza and Myanmar on the Verge of the Humanitarian Catastrophe
10. Draft Resolution on Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers in Asia
11. Draft Resolution on the Promotion of Quality Child and Youth Development for Sustainable Society in Asia
12. Draft Resolution on Ageing Society in Asia
13. Draft Resolution on Human Development in Asia

On resolution No. 6, the Chair requested the Secretariat to shorten the preamble para 2 as well as deleting references to the names of centers mentioned in the draft resolution.

Draft resolutions No.9 and 10 were deferred to the next meeting for further consideration due to strong objection by a delegation and reservations by others.

- Presentation of new draft resolution:

After consideration and adoption of the thirteen draft resolution, the delegations of Turkey and Iran presented the following two new draft resolutions which were adopted in principle by the Standing Committee. The detail consideration of the content of these documents will be addressed during next meeting:

- Draft Resolution on Tourism Cooperation in Asia (Turkey)
- Draft Resolution on Sustainable Tourism Cooperation in Asia (Iran)

[\(Attachment VII\)](#)

Delegation of Iran also proposed two draft Resolutions on “Family” and on “illegal Immigrants” to be presented to the next meeting.

### **7- Closing Session:**

Under this Agenda item, several delegations and APA SG, thanked the Islamic Parliament of Iran and in particular the Chairperson of the meeting for their successful leadership of the meeting.

### **8. Any other Matters:**

No issue was raised.

The Meeting started at 7.00 GMT and terminated at 12:30 GMT.

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## Attachment I

# Asian Parliamentary Assembly



## Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs

(Virtual Meeting)

Tehran- Islamic Republic of Iran

14 July 2021



## Registration Form

(7/13/2021 by APA Secretariat)

### List of Participants

#### Participating countries (25):

*Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Lao PDR, Lebanon, Mongolia, Pakistan, Palestine, Philippines, Republic of Palau, Russia, Syria, Thailand, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Viet Nam, Yemen.*

No.	Country	First Name	Last Name	Position
1	Afghanistan	Amir Gul	Shahin	Head of Delegation, Chairman of the Religious and Culture Affairs Commission
2	Afghanistan	Nimatullah	Karyab	Deputy of the Religious and Culture Affairs Commission
3	Afghanistan	Omar Nasir	Mujadidi	Secretary of the Religious and Culture Affairs Commission
4	Afghanistan	Abdul Qader	Qhalatwall	Member of the Religious and Culture Affairs Commission
5	Afghanistan	Mohammad Ali	Akhlaqi	Member of the Religious and Culture Affairs Commission
6	Afghanistan	Farida	Bikzad	Member of the Religious and Culture Affairs Commission
7	Azerbaijan	Ganira	Pashayeva	MP/ Head of the Delegation to APA/the Head of the Cultural Committee of the Milli Majlis
8	Azerbaijan	Afag	Hasanova	International Relations

				Department of the Office of Milli Majlis/APA Delegation Secretary
9	Bahrain	Ahmed	Alsalloom	Member of Council of Representatives- Head of Delegation
10	Bahrain	Mohamed	Alkhuzai	Member of Shura Council
11	Bahrain	Mohamed	Bin Daina	Parliamentary Relation Development Specialist – Council of Representatives
12	Bangladesh	Ruhul	Madani	Hon’ble Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Religious
13	Bangladesh	Khodeza	Hossain	Hon’ble Member of Parliament
14	Bangladesh	Tahmina	Begum	Hon’ble Member of Parliament
15	Bhutan	Lhaki	Dolma	Chairperson
16	Bhutan	Sonam	Pelzom	Deputy Chairperson
17	Bhutan	Tshewang	Rinzin	Member
18	Bhutan	Ugyen	Namgay	Member
19	Bhutan	KARMA	WANGCHUK	MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
20	Bhutan	DIL MAYA	RAI	MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
21	Bhutan	CHOKI	GYELTSHEN	MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
22	Bhutan	SAMDRUP R	WANGCHUK	MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
23	Bhutan	DINESH KUMAR	PRADHAN	MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
24	Bhutan	UGEN	TENZIN	MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
25	Bhutan	YESHEY	DEM	MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
26	Bhutan	UGYEN	DORJI	MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
27	Bhutan	KARMA	THINLEY	MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
28	Cambodia	Hon. Yara	SUOS	Vice- Chairman of the Commission on Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, Media and

				Information, Head of Delegation (MP)
29	Cambodia	Hon. Kim Yeat	CHHIT	Vice- Chairman of the Commission on Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, Media and Information (Senator),
30	Cambodia	Hon. Socheath	NGUON	Member of the Commission on Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, Media and Information, Member (MP)
31	Cambodia	H.E. Mr. Bunly	HOK	Deputy director of International Relation Department of the Secretariat-General of the National Assembly, Assistant
32	Cambodia	Mr. Thy	SENG	Chief of the International Relations Office of the Secretariat-General of the National Assembly, Assistant
33	China	Min	Zhou	Member of the Standing Committee and the Ethnic Affairs Committee of the National People's Congress of China
34	India	PINAKI	MISRA	MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT (HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE)
35	India	L.V.	RAMANA	DIRECTOR, LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT (Delegation Coordinator)
36	India	YOGENDRA	SINGH	Deputy Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat (Accompanying Officer)
37	Iran	Masoumeh	PASHAEI BAHRAM	Member of Parliament Chairperson of the APA Group HEAD OF DELEGATION
38	Iran	Mohammad Mahdi	zahedi	Member of Parliament
39	Iran	Zohreh Sadat	Lajevardi	Member of Parliament
40	Iran	Mojtaba	Baniasadzadeh	Advisor
41	Iran	Leila	Taati	International Officer

42	Iran	Seyed Mostafa	Sharifi	International Officer
43	Iraq	Aliah	Abbas	C.O.R
44	Kuwait	Staff		
45	Lao PDR	Dr. Bounelome	KEOBOUAHOME	Member of National Assembly, Vice- chairman of Cultural and Social Affairs Committee
46	Lao PDR	Ketmany	BANDASACK	Member of National Assembly, Chairperson of Cultural-Social and Ethnic Affairs Committee of People's Council of Vientiane Capital
47	Lao PDR	Prof.Dr. Hongkham	SOUVANNAVONG	Member of National Assembly
48	Lao PDR	Alavanh	PHANTHAVONG	Director General of Education and Culture Department
49	Lao PDR	Kaysone	KEOMANYKHOD	Deputy-Director General of Inter- Parliamentary relations Department
50	Lebanon	INAYA	EZZEDDINE	MP/ Chairperson of Women and Children Parliamentary Committee
51	Mongolia	Munkh-Orgil	Tsend	Member of Parliament
52	Pakistan (National Assembly)	Ms. Nafeesa Inayatullah Khan	Khattak	Member National Assembly
53	Pakistan (National Assembly)	Ms. Naureen Farooq	Ibrahim	Member National Assembly
54	Pakistan (National Assembly)	Mr. Ali Khan	Jadoon	Member National Assembly
55	Pakistan (Senate)	Nuzhat	Sadiq	Senator
56	Pakistan (Senate)	Faisal	Saleem Rehman	Senator
57	Palestine	Omar	Hamayel	Member of Palestine National Council (PNC) head of delegation
58	Palestine	Khaled	Ayyad	Counselor

59	Philippines	Evelina	Escudero	Deputy Speaker Head of Delegation
60	Philippines	Rose Marie “Baby”	Arenas	Deputy Speaker
61	Philippines	Christopher	De Venecia	Member of Parliament, Chairperson to the Special Committee on Creative Industry and Performing Arts
62	Philippines	Florida “Rida”	Robes	Member of Parliament, Chairperson to the Committee on People’s Participation
63	Philippines	Joe Anthony	Ramos	Delegation Secretary
64	Philippines	Maria Luisa	Beringuela	Delegation Secretary
65	Philippines	Grace	Andres	Deputy Secretary General, Inter- Parliamentary and Public Affairs Department
66	Philippines	Lourdes Rajini	Rye	Executive Director, Inter-Parliamentary Relations and Special Affairs Bureau
67	Philippines	Marie Loraine	Ayson-Inton	Staff, Inter-Parliamentary Relations Service
68	Philippines	Ann Marie	Santos	Staff, Inter-Parliamentary Relations Service
69	Philippines	Gerrianna	Baja	Staff, Inter-Parliamentary Relations Service
70	Republic of Palau	Gibson	Kanai	Floor Leader, House of Delegates, 11th OEK Palau National Congress
71	Russia	Aleksei	Lyashchenko	MP
72	Russia	Mikhail	Emeljanov	MP
73	Russia	Irina	Kuzmina	Secretary
74	Syria	SAMEER	ALKHATEEB	Chair of Education and Scientific Research Committee
75	Syria	MAYOUF	ALZIAB	Vice Chair of Education and Scientific Research Committee
76	Syria	FADEL	KEDA	Rapporteur of Education and Scientific Research Committee
77	Syria	MARIET	KHORI ABDULLAH	MP



78	Syria	SIHAM	OTHMAN	MP
79	Syria	MOGEETH	IBRAHEEM	MP
80	Syria	MOHAMMAD	ALSHAMI	MP
81	Thailand	Hon. Mrs. Apiradi	TANTRAPORN	Member of the Senate
82	Thailand	Hon. Mr. Issara	SEREEWATTHANAWUT	Member of the House of Representatives
83	Thailand	Mr. Russdy	KHANTANIT	Secretary to the delegation
84	Thailand	Miss Charuphan	LAPSURATIANTHONG	Assistant Secretary to the delegation
85	Turkey	ASUMAN	ERDOĞAN	MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT HEAD OF DELEGATION
86	Turkey	MÜŞERREF PERVİN TUBA	DURGUT	MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT MEMBER OF DELEGATION
87	Turkey	RAMAZAN	CAN	MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT MEMBER OF DELEGATION
88	Turkey	GÖKMEN	TOPLU	DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF FOREIGN RELATIONS AND PROTOCOL DEPT. OF GNAT
89	Turkey	REZAK	TAVLI	FOREIGN RELATIONS AND PROTOCOL DEPT. OF GNAT Assistant Legislative Expert
90	Turkey	MURAT	HASTÜRK	FOREIGN RELATIONS AND PROTOCOL DEPT. OF GNAT Senior Officer
91	Turkey	F.SİREL	DELİLOĞLU	FOREIGN RELATIONS AND PROTOCOL DEPT. OF GNAT Officer
92	United Arab Emirates	MOHAMMED	ALKASHF	HEAD OF DELEGATION
93	United Arab Emirates	DR.NEDAL	ALTUNAJI	MEMBER
94	United Arab Emirates	AYESHA	ALMULLA	MEMBER
95	Viet Nam	Tran	Kim Chi	Hear of Inter - Parliamentary Division, Foreign Affairs Department, Office of Viet Nam National Assembly
96	Viet Nam	Ba	Dinh Truc	Staff of Inter - Parliamentary Division, Foreign Affairs Department, Office of Viet Nam National Assembly

97	Yemen	Ali	Al-Znam	Head of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates Committee
98	Yemen	Morteza	Aljodban	Chairman of higher education, Sport and Youth Committee
99	Yemen	Ahmad	Alnozili	Vice Chairman of higher education, Sport and Youth Committee
100	Yemen	Khaled	Al-Saadi	Head of Freedoms Committee
101	Yemen	Bassam	Alshater	Vice Chairman of Committee on Foreign Affairs and Expatriates
102	APA Secretariat	Mr. Mohammad Reza	MAJIDI	Secretary General of APA
103	APA Secretariat	Amb. Mr. Kia	TABATABAEE	Deputy Secretary General of APA
104	APA Secretariat	Mr. Mehdi	GHASHGHAVI	Executive Deputy of Secretariat
105	APA Secretariat	Mr. Mehdi	MOLLAHOSSEINI	APA Senior Expert
106	APA Secretariat	Mr. Javad	HASHEMI	APA Director of International Affairs
107	APA Secretariat	Mr. Saeed	SOHRABINIA	APA Director of Information Technology

Attachment II

**Text of the Statement**  
**Delivered on behalf of the**  
**H.E. Dr. Ghalibaf, Speaker of the Islamic Parliament of Iran, at**  
**the Virtual Meeting of the Standing Committee on Cultural and Social**  
**Affairs**  
**Of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly**  
**14 July 2021**

*In the Name of God*  
*the Beneficent, the Merciful*

**Distinguished Parliamentarians of Asian countries;**

**Excellencies;**

**Ladies and gentlemen;**

Allow me first to extend my warm and sincere greetings from Tehran, the capital of the Islamic Republic of Iran, to the distinguished heads of delegation and parliamentarians attending this Meeting of the APA Committee on Cultural and Social Affairs.

It is with pleasure that the Islamic Parliament of Iran has had the privilege of hosting this august assembly today. I hope that the COVID situation will soon ease up and allow us to receive Your Excellencies in person here in Tehran.

It goes beyond doubt that positive and constructive co-operation and interaction between APA Member Parliaments and dialogue and consultation among parliamentarians at all levels will bolster the achievements of this important

parliamentary institution as APA is, beget consolidated collaboration, and foster increased convergence across this ancient continent of Asia.

I hope that your active participation and constructive contribution as representatives of the ancient and historical continent of Asia can produce valuable fruit in line with the lofty objectives of the Assembly.

I would like to underscore that while we embrace ethnic, religious and national diversity across the Asian continent, we believe that God-centrism is the fundamental basis and core axis of human's individual and social life. Man has been bestowed this gift of voluntary perfection and prosperity. If he but only chose the right choices and make recourse to divine guidance, then he shall attain the ultimate perfection.

We are convinced that in the context of social and cultural interactions, the most fundamental unit of society is the 'family', with an irreplaceable role in producing, preserving and promoting culture within communities. Despite certain differences, societies are all under the same umbrella of influence by divine traditions and common, universal evolutionary laws.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

Common knowledge as it is, the crucial issue of culture, per se and irrespective of the pervasive ideologies and attitudes in a given society, overshadows other aspects of any nation's life. As such, development in all economic, political, educational and social fronts requires a rich culture that is founded on local and national values. The outcome of such an outlook in the society will be economic growth and sustainable and balanced development.

I am of the conviction that given the cultural diversity and plurality in Asia, it can promote its status only if it preserves its continental and collective identity. Asian nations have surely paid a high price for the preservation of their national and collective identity. Thus, it is incumbent on parliamentarians, as the voice of the people, to preserve and strengthen that identity.

**Dear colleagues;**

In order to cushion the adverse ramifications of social-cultural harms, We, as members of the parliaments of Asian countries, must lay focus on such issues as 'cultural diversity and cultural heritage', 'women', 'humanitarian aid', 'interfaith dialogue', 'fight against corruption', 'fight against trafficking of cultural property and goods', 'fight against drug trafficking', "information and communications technology" and "health equity in Asia'. We need adopt more effective measures to establish our religious, national and collective Asian identity in the face of the wrong Western approach to culture. To this end, we need pay special attention to the capacities and priorities of our societies by expanding international and executive co-operation.

**Honorable participants,**

It can be said that the predecessors have laid out the basic principles and goals of this Committee so as to achieve sustainable and balanced development in Asia in light of promoting the Asian approach to culture and serve as a blueprint for the Members of the Assembly.

I would like to stress that by following these principles and goals, many of the fundamental challenges and crises can be addressed in the best possible manner. Accordingly, the approach of the Islamic Parliament of Iran is premised upon moderation, constructive interaction and strive for giving priority to co-operation with the ancient continent of Asia in order to find operational solutions to the expansion of economic co-operation.

In this regard, resolving disputes and removing barriers to co-operation through dialogue and consultation is one of the main priorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In today's world, there is this multidimensional link between culture, economy, politics and security. Concentrating on increasing trade and economic co-operation is one of the pillars that can, on the bedrocks of Asia's cultural diversity, pave the way for the further development and growth of the continent.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize that the current challenges at the transnational level are such that no country can single-handedly tackle them. Therefore, achieving sustainable and balanced development in various areas, including cultural and social spheres, is merely possible through co-operation among and collective participation of the Asian countries.

The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that by fostering expanded interactions between and among Asian states, it is possible to enjoy new intellectual advances and take operational measures to reach a New Asia and raise the Asian continent to its real and befitting status in global equations.

I am confident that through greater cooperation between the parliaments of Asian countries and as a result of your intellectual support in this meeting, the ancient continent of Asia shall await a lustrous future ahead. Once again, I would like to thank you for your attendance in this meeting. I wish you every success in your endeavors.

*Thank you for your attention*

*Peace be upon you, and God's blessings and mercy.*

## Attachment III

# Asian Parliamentary Assembly



## Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs

(Virtual Meeting)

Tehran- Islamic Republic of Iran

14 July 2021



## Draft Agenda

(6/7/2021 by APA Secretariat)

- 1- Adoption of the Agenda
- 2- Opening Remarks by Chairperson
- 3- Statement by Representative of APA President
- 4- Report of APA Secretary General
- 5- Consideration of the Situation of Women Parliamentarians in Asia
- 6- Consideration and Recommendations on Draft Resolutions:
  - Draft Resolution on Measures to Promote Cultural Diversity and Protect Cultural Heritage in Asia
  - Draft Resolution on Asian Integration through Information and Communication Technology
  - Draft Resolution on Collaboration on Health Equity in Asia
  - Draft Resolution on Asian Parliamentarians against Corruption
  - Draft Resolution of APA Women Parliamentarians
  - Draft Resolution on Promoting Inter-Faith Dialogue and Harmony among World Religions
  - Draft Resolution on Legal and Legislative Cooperation in Combating the Smuggling of Cultural Items in Asia
  - Draft Resolution on Effective Cooperation in Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking in Asia
  - Draft Resolution on Humanitarian Aid to Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Gaza and Myanmar on the Verge of the Humanitarian Catastrophe
  - Draft Resolution on Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers in Asia
  - Draft Resolution on the Promotion of Quality Child and Youth Development for Sustainable Society in Asia
  - Draft Resolution on Ageing Society in Asia
  - Draft Resolution on Human Development in Asia
- 7- Closing Session
- 8- Any other Matters



# Asian Parliamentary Assembly

## Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs

(Virtual Meeting)

Tehran- Islamic Republic of Iran

14 July 2021



## Program of Work

(6/7/2021 by APA Secretariat)

14 July 2021	
07:00 - 07:15 (GMT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Opening of the meeting,</li><li>- Adoption of Agenda</li></ul>
07:15 - 08:00 (GMT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Opening Remarks by Chairperson</li><li>- Statement by Rep. of APA President</li><li>- Report of the Secretary General</li><li>- Report by APA Women Parliamentarian</li></ul>
08:00 - 12:30 (GMT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Consideration of Draft Resolutions</li></ul>
12:30 (GMT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Closing of the Meeting</li></ul>



## Attachment IV

### **Statement by H.E. Ms. Dr. PASHAEE Chairperson of the APA Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs July 14, 2021, Tehran**

#### **Honorable Heads of Parliamentary Delegations**

#### **Distinguished MPs,**

At the outset, I would like to extend my warm greetings from the Islamic Consultative Assembly of Islamic Republic of Iran to the honorable MPs of APA member states. It is my absolute pleasure to host my dear colleagues in the capacity of the meeting of APA permanent committee on social and cultural affairs.

I would like to specially thank my dear colleagues who have participated in this important meeting. Also I would like to express my gratitude towards the honorable secretary General, His Excellency Dr. Majidi, and his colleagues in the Secretariat who made the necessary arrangements for holding this meeting in a proper manner.

#### **Dear Colleagues,**

In a period that the international community is facing a multitude of various challenges and disputes, the coming together of Asian Parliamentarians in the format of APA, underlies the special role and significance of social and cultural topics as an important and effective solution for overcoming regional and international challenges.

International relations are based on multiple foundations; one of which is culture as the beliefs, traditions, and habits of every nation. So that, cultures are considered as the reason for international tensions and on the hand as the one for international integration. The concept of culture, pre and post-globalization, along with political, economic and security concepts and foundations, is still playing its part in the international system and relations and in the modern day, exceptional attention has been paid to its functions in different levels. In other words, culture, in the format of intercultural activities, provides international peace and security and in the format of cultural relations causes the facilitation of diplomacy.

#### **Ladies and Gentlemen**

The developments in recent decades in the field of international relations indicates the importance of culture in reaching goals and improving inter-community relations. Obtaining international credit and validity and reaching the public mind or in other words reaching soft power is one of the important and yet unspecified goals of diplomacy in the

area of international policy which is reachable thorough the culture that fits the cultural position, opportunities, and capacities of a country. Culture is a moderate language that can lay the foundation and support the formal intergovernmental relations and prevent the creation of violent crises in the field of international relations. Thus, governments are leaning towards the solidification of the Epistemological foundations of their culture and generalizing created values, knowledge, and attitudes beyond their geographical borders in order to have one of the means of imposing power besides political and military power (hard power) and align the global public mind in accordance with their interests and goals by resorting to the mechanism of cultural saturation instead of sheer force.

On the other hand, culture as the driving force of development, lay the groundwork for the propulsion of societies and the models of political, social and economic behaviors which its role has gradually found importance as an alternative paradigm with the ebb of ideological challenges. This type of attitude towards politics, or in other words cultural politics, has specific theoretical and pragmatic requirements including causing the definition of politics to be defined not only around the phenomenon called government, but also as phenomenon in all social relations, manifestations, and institutions. Also treating politics as a cultural sensitivity instead of beneficial activity and the idea that every matter is cultural. According to this, the harsh truth of politics and power are sugarcoated by cultural instruments and methods and cultural infrastructure, reintegrates political activities in the level of domestic and global politics.

### **Dear Colleagues,**

Asia is the cradle of human civilization and has always been the origin of religions, cultures and philosophical schools and has had a great share in the human culture and civilization. Various heritages in this ancient continent, is the precious cultural and social treasure of Asian people and solidifies our identity and acts as a bridge for the continuation of the relationship among Asian nations. They are strong links that connects Asian nations through the continent. Therefore, nowadays we have to underline the common cultural heritage among Asian countries instead of cultural divergence and passivism caused by spread of foreign cultures in order to improve our common understanding and stand on this firm belief that this common understanding will help to formulate an Asian collective identity as a “WE” and a unified body based on the existing rich Asian culture in the current tumultuous world.

Cultural and social cooperation can include a broad spectrum of intellectual issues and phenomena in the path towards strengthening solidarity and peace as well as controlling regional and international challenges. Common Asian religious, cultural and ethnic values such as philanthropy, mutual respect, seeking peace and justice, are precious values in order to pave the way to making more efforts towards enhancing dialogue and integration among Asian communities and laying the groundwork for exchanging

experiences while facing regional inefficiencies and problems to reach a common collective chapter in the path towards realization of firm and strong relations and sustainable development.

With that in mind and the proper capacities in APA, it is hereby suggested that headlines **“Cultural and Social Cooperation”**, **“The Role of Culture and Cultural Elite”** and **“The Consideration of Women’s Position in Family-Centered Economy”** as a strategy to leave behind the challenges that lead to divergence and passivism in Asia be put on the agenda of this assembly as a remedial solution. Obviously, precise determination of goals, efforts to reach pragmatic and practical solutions, commitment to cooperation within the framework of agreements and a strong determination to continue this path, are among the effective factors that can lead to the success of these suggestions. In this regard, the Islamic Consultative Assembly of Islamic Republic of Iran submits the **“Draft Resolution on Women and Family-centered Economy”** to the meeting and expresses its readiness to cooperate with other APA member state parliaments in order to advance and operationalize the abovementioned suggestions.

In the end, I would like to reiterate my appreciation towards the participants in this meeting and I wish for the best and most constructive decisions to be made in accordance with the approved agenda. The Islamic Consultative Assembly of Islamic Republic of Iran, undoubtedly, as before, as an honest and determined partner, expresses its readiness to cooperate with other APA member state parliaments on the path towards the realization and fulfillment of justice, welfare and prosperity for all Asian countries.

Thank you for your attention

## Attachment V

### **Statement by H.E. Ms. Asuman ERDOĞAN**

#### **Chairperson of the Turkish Delegation to the Asian Parliamentary Assembly**

Honourable Secretary-General

Honourable Delegations

Distinguished Participants,

I would like to thank the Islamic Parliament of Iran and Head of Iranian Delegation to the APA, Ms. Dr. Masoumeh PASHAEI BAHRAM as well as the Secretariat of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly for their efforts of preparing this meeting as previously agreed. I also would like to thank all the Member Parliaments and distinguished delegations for their participations in and contributions to the meeting, and for their invaluable efforts towards cooperation in Asia.

As the easternmost country of Europe and the westernmost country of Asia, Turkey plays a unique role in bridging the two continents. Turkey, on the one hand, signifies a deep integration with the West, it does not detach itself from its proud roots in Asia and attaches great importance to its integration with the continent, on the other.

Turkey is devising new strategies to best position itself in this era frequently characterized as the “Asian century”. Founded on its multi-dimensional and humanitarian foreign policy, Turkey announced “Asia Anew Initiative” in 2019 in this regard, introducing new strategic visions into its Asia policy. The initiative is a long-term endeavor, taking into account the vast political, economic and cultural diversity of the continent. Under the Initiative, Turkey aims at broadening its relations with Asian countries on the bases of common interests and objectives.

We strongly believe the importance of home-grown initiatives pursuing regional integration by cultivating economic, cultural and people-to-people linkages and promoting multilateral cooperation, based on the idea that regional issues require primarily regional responses for sustainable solutions and progresses. Turkey is prepared to work closely with each and every partner in Asia towards building healthy, resilient and sustainable societies across the region. Furthermore, it closely follows the developments in the region and their possible implications on regional and global social, economic and political currents. Therefore, we deem it important to use the capacity of multilateral platforms to create synergy, and work collectively to ensure peace, stability and sustainable development in the region.

Distinguished Participants,

The Covid-19 pandemic has been one of the grave calamities that humanity has ever faced. As the new variants of the coronavirus has been emerging across the globe, its adverse impacts on the humanity still continue unabated, the struggle against which necessitates more robust and resolute regional and international cooperation. Unfortunately, the Covid-19 pandemic has so far cost more than 4 million lives across the globe. Beyond such fatal consequences for human lives, it has also grave political, economic, and social implications. The Covid-19 pandemic is much more than a health crisis. If not tackled, it has the potential to inflict further damage to societies, economies and livelihoods, and it is likely to erode the gains made towards defeating poverty and many other diseases.

The Covid-19 outbreak affects all segments of the population and is particularly detrimental to members of those social groups in the most vulnerable situations. The health and economic

impacts of the virus are being borne disproportionately by poor people. The pandemic is deepening poverty and inequality. The pandemic has increased global, regional and national fragilities. Many countries, from Latin America to Africa and the Middle East to South and Southeast Asia, are facing difficulties in their health systems and food supply.

Demonstrating full and inclusive cooperation in the equitable access to vaccines, medicines and medical equipment, including personal protective equipment is vital for the lives and livelihoods of humanity and for the health of global economy. There is also clear need to consider the socio-economic consequences of the pandemic for the least developed countries and take this consideration into account in the formulation of assistance policies. In this regard, social inclusion and international cooperation should be at the forefront of our efforts against the virus.

We firmly believe that humanity is on the same boat in countering and defeating this calamity. Therefore, it is imperative to act with a sense of unity and solidarity. Unless every corner of the world is safe from the outbreak, no nation or society will be able to feel safe, as more and more variants of the virus emerge and accelerate its transmission.

Since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, Turkey has been committed to international cooperation and solidarity in the fight against the virus. Turkey has contributed to the work of the United Nations, Group of Twenty, World Health Organization, Turkic Council, the Group of Mexico, Indonesia, Korea, Turkey and Australia, Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and many other international platforms.

Equitable, adequate and affordable access to vaccines is vital. As Turkey, we have already announced that once we develop our own domestic vaccines we will offer them to the whole humanity, considering vaccine as a global public good to be equitable available in all countries.

In the course of the pandemic, Turkey has always underscored that unhindered and equitable access by all countries to medicines, vaccines and medical equipment, in an affordable manner is integral to a coordinated and effective global response to COVID-19. With this conviction, we have sent medical equipment and other types of critical material to 159 countries and 12 international organizations, and continue to do so.

We have launched our mass vaccination campaign on January 13, 2021. In a short while, Turkey has become one of the leading countries in terms of the speed of inoculations. Since Turkey launched her vaccination campaign, the number of doses administered has exceeded 60 million. With the current figures, we are one of the leading countries in terms of the total number of vaccines administered, being in the 9th rank globally.

When our domestic vaccine is ready for deployment, we intend to put it in the service of all humanity, increasing also our vaccine aid. Turkey defends the view that availability of a vaccine to humanity as a whole and its production in adequate quantities for all are as critical as its development. It is important to supply the vaccine to the entire world population including vulnerable communities and least developed countries, where the pandemic poses greater risks.

As has been the case with our medical equipment assistance, we will have a responsible, human-centered and principled approach regarding the equitable access to vaccines. As a matter of fact many friendly countries are looking to Turkey for the provision of vaccine and we have already provided vaccine to several friendly nations.

Turkey considers development, welfare, employment, health and access to the anti-Covid-19 vaccines as global rights for everyone. With this understanding, Turkey is working relentlessly to create a common understanding and to promote effective policies and measures at all relevant international platforms.

As APA President, we seek to develop and strengthen cooperation channels under this platform through videoconferences and in-person meetings. Because, we believe that we have no option but to advance our diplomatic endeavors and carry out all the meetings under the Asian Parliamentary Assembly for the benefit of all the Members. We put our efforts to promote international dialogues, peaceful resolution of international issues and confidence-building measures to contribute to the mutual development of the continent. In this regard, I sincerely hope this meeting will strengthen and accelerate the pace of parliamentary diplomacy under the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, and hope to continue our meetings in-person soon.

Thank you!

## Attachment VI



### Asian Parliamentary Assembly

#### **Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs (Virtual Meeting)**

**Tehran- Islamic Republic of Iran**

**14 July 2021**

#### **Report of the Secretary General**

**Madam Chair,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Dear Colleagues,**

It is my great pleasure and honor to welcome you all to the second APA regular Committee meetings being held in virtual format in year 2021. I appreciate all the APA member parliaments and in particular the Presidency for supporting the Secretariat initiative to hold APA regular meetings virtually. At the same time, allow me to seize this opportunity to thank the Islamic Parliament of Iran and its APA Group who took the burden of holding this virtual event.

**Dear Colleagues,**

As you may recall, at its meeting of 13-14 February 2019 in Bangkok, the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs had before thirteen draft resolutions. Three of the draft resolutions were new proposals submitted by delegations of Thailand and Kuwait. The Meeting adopted ten draft resolutions and three new draft resolutions were adopted in principal and its consideration deferred to next Standing Committee meeting.

My report today focuses on two central issues: Certain outstanding features of the resolutions and the challenges and innovative ideas.

#### **A. Certain outstanding features of the Resolutions:**

##### ***1- Establishing an award to promote cultural diversity***

In the Resolution on “Measures to Promote Cultural Diversity and Protect Cultural Heritage in Asia”, APA Member Parliaments are called to support *establishing an award* to be presented annually to outstanding Asian artists, authors, poets, film makers, painters, who best convey the APA’s commitment to cultural diversity in Asia. We have not any progress on this call yet.

## ***2- Creating Asian Virtual Parliament***

In the Resolution on “Asian Integration through Information and Communication Technology”, *Creation of the Asian Virtual Parliament* has been the focus of attention. It calls on APA Member Parliaments to volunteer for providing knowledge and know-how, technical assistance, financial support, human resources in creating a “Virtual Asian Parliament”. We have not seen any practical action in this regard too.

## ***3. Basic health services in Asia & COVID-19 Outbreak***

The Resolution on “Collaboration on Health Equity in Asia”, underlines access to basic health services and medicine as a universally accepted norm arising from fundamental elements of human rights. Accordingly, it calls on international community to support and assist developing countries in Asia and avoid all politically motivated measures aimed at hampering their access to basic health services. COVID-19 outbreak and its implications for the current world health system as an important related issue should be duly addressed in this draft resolution.

## ***4. Establishing W.G to consider APA Plan of Action on Combating Corruption***

The Resolution on “Asian Parliamentarians against Corruption” decides to set up a working group under the auspices of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs to further consider the APA Plan of Action on Combating Corruption. To this end, we should prepare the ground for the implementation of this decision and establish the working group to consider the APA Plan of Action on Combating Corruption.

## ***5. Special Committee of APA women parliamentarian***

Under the Resolution on “APA Women Parliamentarians”, it is decided *to establish Special Committee of APA women parliamentarian*. This Resolution also requested the APA Secretariat to assign one part of its website to women parliamentarians of Asia. I am pleased to announce today that a part of the APA website is allocated to the activities of the women parliamentarians of Asia and I encourage all Asian women parliamentarian to use this page for their networking activities.

## ***6. APA membership to UN AOC***

As regards the Resolution on “Promoting Inter-Faith Dialogue and Harmony among World Religions”, at its 11<sup>th</sup> Session the APA General Assembly—applied for *Asian Parliamentary Assembly’s membership to the Group of Friends of the UN Alliance of Civilizations (UN AOC)*. In the course of 2019, the APA Secretariat with the assistant of Turkish delegation finalized the process of membership.

## ***7. Formation of a separate Corps Unit***

The Resolution on “Legal and Legislative Cooperation in Combating the Smuggling of Cultural Items in Asia”, expresses support for the formation of a separate Corps Unit from APA Member Parliaments to protect and safeguard historical cultural properties from the perils of unlawful excavations, theft and smuggling. We had not any progress in this regard too.



**Dear Colleagues,**

What I raised above were some of the outstanding issues in the Agenda of this Committee. There is no doubt that progress and implementation of such decisions and recommendations in near future, require the will and interests of all member parliaments.

## **B. Challenges and innovative ideas**

In conclusion, I would like to touch on certain challenges facing us and raise some innovative ideas to encourage more active participation and contribution on the part of all APA member parliaments.

- There is no doubt, meetings in virtual format imposes certain restrictions in process of deliberations at the APA standing committees and working groups which require more intensive and interactive debates.
- Facing with COVID-19 pandemic during the last two years and restrictions to hold APA regular meetings, calls on APA Parliamentarians to redouble their efforts in order to efficiently address the key issues within the context of the draft resolutions before the Standing Committees.
- In the four Standing Committees we are facing with number of draft resolutions which have remained in the agenda for several years without any substantial changes in the absence of an established rules of procedure to take them off the agenda.
- Deferring consideration of draft resolution from one meeting to the next without having certain rules of procedure is another challenge that we are facing with.
- Just like other international and regional organizations, the APA, should try hard to move actively and lively and get engaged in all matters relevant to the regional and international affairs. The APA Member parliaments are expected to actively contribute and share their innovative ideas, plans and projects in the framework of APA Standing Committees.
- During the last five years, I, in my capacity as Secretary General and as an academician, have devotedly tried to introduce and raise innovative ideas and plans in my reports and statements in all APA gatherings with the aim of keeping track of social, cultural, political, economic and legal discourses at regional and international arena.

**Dear Colleagues,**

Finally, I would like to once again underline the need of having a supervisory organ mandated with the task of monitoring and coordinating activities of the Standing Committees. This supervisory body may set standards, define objectives; recommend new topics and dropout unnecessary and redundant documents etc. for each Committee. We at the Secretariat believe that the APA Bureau constitute a well versed entity to shoulder the tasks enumerated above and decides accordingly at its regular meetings.

Thank you very much for your attention

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## Attachment VII



Asian  
Parliamentary  
Assembly

SC-Social and Cultural Affairs /Draft Res/2021/01

14 July 2021

Iran (Virtual Meeting)

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

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

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

**Also Recalling** the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, adopted by the UNESCO General Conference at the 31st session, held in Paris on November 2, 2001";

**Considering** the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, 1954, and its protocols and UNESCO 2005 Convention on Protection and Promotion of Diversity of Cultural Expression;

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

**Emphasizing** that protection, conservation and management of the diverse Cultural and Natural heritage of Outstanding Universal Value in Asia declared under the Convention concerning *the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage*, 1972 is the responsibility of its member states and joint collaborative efforts, wherever necessary, may be made towards their safeguarding for posterity;

**Recalling** the UNESCO 1972 Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage; and UNESCO 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage;

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

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

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

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

**Taking note** of the UAE initiative to establish the Abrahamic Family House to serve as a focal point including the followers of the three divine religions. The House includes a mosque, a church, and a synagogue side by side. It also promotes understanding, introduces the notion of religions as a foundation for dialogue and tolerance among religions and cultures;

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

**Acknowledging** that Cultural heritage has always been considered as an important resource for tourism and indispensable element for gaining knowledge about country’s history and culture many travel tours;

**Noting** that the exploitation of cultural heritage in tourism activities should not make any negative consequences on the local culture and environment;

**Also Noting** that globalization creates some opportunities for greater interaction among cultures and civilizations while bringing about challenges in preserving and celebrating the rich intellectual and cultural diversity in Asia;

**Realizing** that the establishment of the Asian Cultural Council (ACC) under the framework of the International Conference of the Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) shall serve as an important platform for culture of peace, sustainable development, human connectivity and innovation at the Siem Reap Declaration;

**Recalling** the 1970 UNESCO Convention on Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property to protect the cultural heritage in Asia;

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

**Deploring** the unrepairable damage brought to cultural and religious heritage by terrorism and organized crimes, especially damages to all religious and historical sites and holy shrines by indiscriminate bombing and shelling in Syria, Iraq ,Afghanistan and Yemen;

**Condemning** Israeli attacks on Al-Aqsa mosque, the excavations and infringements on all Islamic and Christian holy sites in the 1961 occupied Palestinian territories and refuse Israel's<sup>1</sup> failure the Occupying Power to comply with UNESCO resolutions concerning the Old City of Jerusalem and its walls<sup>2</sup>;

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

*We therefore,*

1. **Determine** to encourage and promote further intercultural dialogue and inter-religious exchanges throughout Asia;
2. **Resolve** to appreciate and promote the benefits of diversity and good governance among Asian nations, and encourage values such as justice, human rights, non-discrimination, democracy and respect within and among communities and nations;
3. **Reject** all manifestations of discrimination that are based on racism, xenophobia and all other related forms of intolerance;
4. **Remain Committed** to the protection of the rights of all communities, where applicable, so as to ensure the fulfillment of community rights;
5. **Urge** relevant governmental agencies to further facilitate consular services as appropriate for citizens of Asian countries to allow for greater people-to-people interaction;
6. **Acknowledge** that illegal import, export and transfer of ownership of cultural property and artifacts are responsible for the impoverishment of the cultural identity of the countries of origin of such property;
7. **Decide** to remain cognizant of damages to religious holy places and historical sites by ISIS and other terrorist organizations in our home continent;
8. **Resolve** to cooperate to prevent illegal import, export or transfer of cultural property and artifacts among Asian countries and beyond;
9. **Urge** Member Parliaments to consider ratifying the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage and the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage;

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<sup>1</sup> Iran registered its reservation on word "Israel"

<sup>2</sup> The Philippines registered its reservation on whole para

10. **Call Upon** all Member Parliaments to promote tolerance and empathy among Asian nations with a view to diminish distrust, misunderstanding, and conflict among religious communities;
11. **Strongly Recommend** APA Member Parliaments to promote tourism in association with conservation and protection of cultural heritage;
12. **Reiterate** that during armed conflict, states should adopt measures to safeguard the cultural and natural heritage of a nation in conformity with international law and the principles and objectives of international agreements and UNESCO recommendations concerning the protection of such heritage during hostilities;
13. **Emphasize** on the illegality of any change brought about by the Israeli occupation in the Old City of Jerusalem and its surroundings, as it is included in the list of World Heritage in Danger, and rejecting any change in its historical, civilizational, religious and cultural character, in violation of international conventions, such as the Geneva and Hague Conventions, and the relevant UNESCO and UN Security Council resolutions, which considered all these measures null and void, and demanded their immediate halt, and allow the UNESCO mission to investigate the facts about the excavations and tunnels carried out by the occupation under the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque;
14. **Reiterate** that Member Parliaments should adopt measures to safeguard and restore the cultural and natural heritage of nations in conformity with International law and the principles of objectives of international agreements and UNESCO recommendations concerning the protection of such heritage during hostilities, including those caused by conflicts and violent extremism;
15. **Request** the APA Secretary General to uphold cooperation between APA and international and regional organizations such as UNESCO, United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), ISESCO, Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) and relevant Asian NGOs active in promoting cultural diversity and dialogue among civilizations;
16. **Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to support establishing an award to be presented annually to outstanding Asian artists; authors, poets, film makers, painters, etc. who best convey the APA's commitment to cultural diversity in Asia;
17. **Encourage** the parliamentarians to support their governments outreaching to civil society about the importance of cultural diversity in societies and developing strategic plans and projects to develop the cultural sector to promote dialogue among civilizations and cultures based on mutual respect, towards consolidating the concept of humanity and promote human rights, dignity, and identity;
18. **Stress** on the important role the private sector can play in promoting cultural diversity, encouraging the development of plans and mechanisms to create a space

for dialogue between the private and public sectors to develop plans to manage, protect, and promote cultural diversity in Asia;

19. **Also stress** on the important role the parliamentarians can play in developing policies and legislation to promote the principles enshrined in the UNESCO World Day for Cultural Diversity in their countries and to develop appropriate mechanisms for developing plans and regulatory frameworks to manage the cultural heritage sites, by identifying the cultural importance of these sites, maintaining their authenticity and preserving their value while respecting international laws for cultural diversity;
20. **Call upon** the APA Member's Parliaments to support the cultural diversity including respect to regional and national particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, as part of intangible asset and heritage of human culture.



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

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

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

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

**Also Recalling** WSIS<sup>3</sup> Outcomes of 2003, 2005 held under UN aegis to build a people centered, inclusive and development oriented information society and UN resolution 125 of the UN General Assembly adopted at its 70<sup>th</sup> session in 2016 on High level review of WSIS+10 on global ICTs development and measures to facilitate accomplishment of SDGs;

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

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

**Recognizing** the fact that today Asia encompasses the biggest market in the world, the highest number of population; the largest amount of foreign currency reserves; and dynamic economic growth; especially after the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic has revealed the negative impact of misleading and false news that impeded the efforts of the international community to confront the pandemic;

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

**Emphasizing** on the principle of flow of information, privacy protection within the domestically applicable legal frameworks and also equitable access to communication and access to new technologies at the national, regional and global levels;

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<sup>3</sup> World Summit on Information Society held under the aegis of UN and ITU in 2003 and 2005

**Deeply concerned** by the proliferation of fake and fabricated news, misinformation and disinformation resulting due to misuse of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) which generate sentiments, hostility and divisiveness among communities;

**Underlining** the transformational role of ICTs in daily life as an enabling factor in all areas of economy of national, regional, and global development;

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

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

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

*We therefore,*

1. **Call upon** and emphasis APA Member Parliaments to volunteer for providing knowledge and know-how, technical assistance, financial support, human resources; and other forms of assistance in creating a "Virtual Asian Parliament" based on the report of APA Secretary General on the subject matter in order to enhance collaboration and interaction among parliaments and parliamentarians in Asia and as a prelude to establishing a model of Asian Parliament;
2. **Determine** the modern and traditional ways to help to complete a plan to promote, publicize and disseminate information amongst citizens within the APA region, including through the use of social media;
3. **Recognize** that information and communications technologies present new opportunities and challenges and that there is a pressing need to address the major impediments that developing countries face in accessing the new the new technologies, such as an appropriate enabling environment, sufficient resources, infrastructure, education, capacity, investment and connectivity;
4. **Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to support vocational and knowledge-based education in Asia in order to enhance people's life-skills and competitiveness in coping with the challenges of globalization;



5. **Urge** APA Member Parliaments to share best practices and exchange experiences with a view to inspiring a common approach toward Asian integration through holding special workshops and forums among Asian Member Parliaments;
6. **Also call upon** the UN, its specialized agencies, affiliated organizations, particularly ITU, the UN Specialized agency in ICTs, to support the Members of this Assembly through collaboration in improving access to ICTs and ICT-enabled services for the undeserved in the region in partnership with regional organizations in particular Asia Pacific Tele-community with an aim to bridge the digital divide and transfer of technologies and UNESCO, to support the Members of this Assembly to surmount the hurdles, identified by research centers, think tanks and intellectuals, hampering circulation of ideas through available means and for flow of communication and information subject to national legal frameworks;
7. **Exhort** APA Member Parliamentarians to collaborate and take necessary measures to promote the development of ICT infrastructure through enabling policies, capacity building, building confidence and security in the use of ICTs, inter alia;
8. **Request** APA Member Parliaments to promote parliamentary action to address the proliferation of fake and fabricated news, misinformation and disinformation caused by the misuse of ICTs and include initiatives to promote, information awareness, fact-checking collaboration and the establishment of complaint procedure mechanism, where necessary, without limiting the Asian Citizen's fundamental rights to know and freedom to access information as well as freedom of expression and assuming the responsibility of social media for their behavior in ICTs environment;
9. **Invite** the APA Secretary-General to seek possible technical and financial assistance from Member Parliaments and other institutions to facilitate the implementation of this resolution and prepare a report with comprehensive approach to accelerate the process of Asian Integration.



## Draft Resolution on Collaboration on Health Equity in Asia

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

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

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

**Welcoming** the Report of the Secretary-General contained in SG/Rep/2014/02 dated 10 August, 2014;

**Underlining** the report of WHO Commission on Social Determinants of Health for addressing the impact of socio-economic inequalities on health at global, regional and national levels;

**Noting** Alma Ata Declaration adopted on 6-12 September 1978 which defined differences in health as a common concern of all countries and invited all to work on the fullest attainment of health for all and to reduce the gap between health status, and Astana Declaration adopted on 25-26 October 2018 reaffirming the commitments expressed in Alma Ata Declaration;

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

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

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

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

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

**Emphasizing** on United Nations General Assembly resolution 72/138 proclaiming 12 December as International Universal Health Coverage Day and calling upon APA Member Parliaments to benefit from this day to raise awareness and promote Universal Health Coverage in their policies;

**Also welcoming** the United Nations General Assembly high-level meeting on universal health coverage held on 23 September 2019 under the theme "Universal Health Coverage: Moving Together to Build a Healthier World" aimed at accelerating progress towards universal health coverage;

**Recognizing** that access to medicines is one of the fundamental elements in achieving progressively the full realization of the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health;

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

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

**Emphasizing** the need to comprehensively combat social and health related problems emanating from illegal drugs, psychotropic, alcohol and tobacco products, and promote policies to prevent and control their use, abuse and addiction;

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

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

**Noting** that the Covid-19 pandemic has revealed serious shortcomings in preparedness for, timely and effective prevention and detection of, as well as response to potential health emergencies, including in the capacity and resilience of health systems, indicating the need to better prepare for future health emergencies;

**Acknowledging** the importance of developing, strengthening and maintaining the capacities to detect, access, notify and report events and the importance of timely notification of events that

may constitute a public health emergency of international concern in accordance with relevant provisions of the International Health Regulations (2005), and acknowledging the critical role played by international cooperation and timely and transparent sharing of epidemiological and clinical data, biological samples, knowledge and information, including timely sharing of pathogen genetic sequence data alongside sharing the benefits arising from utilization of such resources, and in this context recalling the Convention on Biological Diversity and its objectives and principle and the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity;

***Emphasizing*** the need to promote initiatives aimed at ensuring timely, affordable and equitable access to, as well as the distribution of diagnostics, therapeutics, medicines and vaccines, and essential health products and technologies, and their components, as well as equipment to combat COVID-19 pandemic and to support the achievement of universal health coverage including preventive measures and actions;

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

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

***Emphasizing*** that the equitable distribution of anti-Coronavirus vaccines, based on humanitarian and ethical standards, will bring global benefits necessary to save lives, and that keeping the vaccine for a limited number of countries will lead to the prolongation of the pandemic, the continuation of its moral, health and economic repercussions on all the world countries, and will lead to the failure of efforts to eradicate this pandemic;

***Having in mind*** that access to basic health services and medicine is a universally accepted norm arising from fundamental elements of human rights;

***Bearing in mind*** that the Covid-19 pandemic is a global challenge and public health problem, which affects the welfare of the humanity and disproportionately impacts on the most vulnerable people and regions across the globe;

***Taking into consideration*** that the states are facing problems and challenges regarding the protection from, diagnosing and treatment of the Covid-19, and that the health system and hospitals in many countries are under pressure;

***Recognizing*** that the global challenges caused by the Covid-19 pandemic can only be overcome by international solidarity and cooperation, particularly in the fields of anti-Covid-19 vaccine procurement, distribution and inoculation as well as enhancement the worldwide production capacity of the vaccine;

*We therefore,*

1. **Urge** the APA Member Parliaments to incorporate Social Determinants of Health (SDH) more intensively in other APA themes and activities;
2. **Urge** the APA Member Parliaments to strengthen collaboration with a view to formulating a coherent approach with regard to social determinants of health in Asia, especially education, housing, and employment;
3. **Invite** the APA Member Parliaments to promote health equity in Asia through sharing experiences and best practices on identifying vulnerability and inequity and actively advocate the inclusion of social determinants of health in national policies and programs;
4. **Invite** APA member Parliaments to develop a cross-sectoral collaboration for the advancement of health equity in Asia through comprehensive training and study exchanges on social determination of health among policy makers and related stake- holders;
5. **Urge** the APA Member Parliaments to adopt policies and measures to improve service provision, primary care and health financing system including social protection system as well as health insurance plans;
6. **Call on** for giving priority to humanitarian considerations over economic interests, adopting mechanisms to ensure equality in the equitable distribution of vaccines against the Coronavirus, and for companies producing vaccines to assume their social and humanitarian responsibilities towards low-income and poor countries, by adopting mechanisms that ensure accessibility to the vaccines to protect the most vulnerable citizens all over the world, in order to put an end to this pandemic;
7. **Call on** APA Member Parliaments to encourage their respective governments in order to establish networking among major governmental and non-governmental institutions dealing with health issues in Asia, and expand cooperation with academic institutions, non-governmental organizations, civil society groups, academia and the media with adequate safeguard in order to identify the main social determinants of health;
8. **Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to take action in their countries to increase health literacy and awareness;
9. **Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to persuade their respective governments to create and implement targeted policies, activities, and programs to ensure a success in the achievement of SDGs including universal health coverage with regard to health policies; and promoting access to quality, efficacious, safe and affordable medicines and medical technologies, as appropriate;
10. **Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to undertake measures to coordinate responses to epidemics and to support international efforts to prevent, mitigate and

address the impacts of infectious diseases and epidemics in accordance with the goal of advancing the 2030 Agenda;

11. **Invite** APA Member Parliaments to encourage their respective governments for enhancing the role of digital technologies, connectivity and access in public health, medical care and health services;
12. **Call on** APA Member Parliaments to take necessary actions and to encourage their respective governments to ensure child nutrition needs and to tackle malnutrition with a focus on equity for a healthier generation;
13. **Determine** to accelerate the achievement of SDG 2030 health targets and to take active part on the discussion of 2030 development agenda by delivering Asian views in the international arena to drive the global agenda, as appropriate in the national context and priorities;
14. **Calls upon** APA Member Parliaments to take action in their countries and persuade governments and other stakeholders for timely and transparent sharing of epidemiological and clinical data, biological samples, knowledge and information, including timely sharing of pathogen genetic sequence data alongside sharing the benefits arising from utilization of such resources, and in this context recalling the Convention on Biological Diversity and its objectives and principle and the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity and its objective;
15. **Calls upon** APA Member Parliaments to persuade their governments to use all relevant measures during the pandemic, including supporting ongoing consideration in WTO on a Covid-19 vaccine Intellectual Property Rights waiver and the use of flexibilities of the TRIPS agreement and the Doha Declaration on TRIPS Agreement and Public Health;
16. **Encourage** the APA Member Parliaments to actively participate in the process of arriving at common objectives which could form the basis of national legislations promoting health equity in Asia, with due attention to equitable social protection policies for health care, long term disability, and protection during unemployment and old age, as appropriate in the national context and priorities;
17. **Support** the free and full access of all nations, especially the Asian nations, to all health capabilities and facilities in the event of a pandemic, including Covid-19, as a human right. In this regard, express grave concern over restrictive and punitive measures illegally imposed on our nations at bilateral and multilateral levels, with negative impact on the right of health, right of free and full access to health and medicine in time of current pandemics;

18. **Call upon** the international community to continue support and assist developing countries in Asia and avoid all politically motivated measures aimed at hampering their access in this regard;
19. **Urge** the APA Member Parliaments to adopt relevant legislations to support universal access of all population in Asia to basic health services and pharmaceutical products;
20. **Demand** Israel<sup>4</sup> - the occupying power - to fulfill its obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention to provide the Palestinians in the occupied territories since 1967 with anti-Coronavirus vaccines, because the ultimate responsibility for providing them with full health services is the Israeli occupation responsibility until the occupation is completely finished, and asking the Israeli occupation to ensure the freedom of mobilization of patients from Gaza Strip, which has been besieged for 14 years, and evacuate the patients for treatment outside Gaza Strip, while emphasizing the free access of all medical and health supplies;
21. **Request** APA Member Parliaments to inform the Secretary-General on the progress made on the implementation of this resolution in their respective countries in order to share them with all Member Parliaments;
22. **Call on** APA Member Parliament to reconsider the health legislation in force to ensure achieving the goal of universal health coverage for all, in addition to increase public allocations for health spending in the countries of the continent to internationally recognized rates, in a manner that enhances equal access to adequate and sustainable health services for all citizens of the continent, especially women, children and the poorest groups;
23. **Confirm** that the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly have the will to promote solidarity and cooperation in the fight against Covid-19 pandemic;
24. **Call for** the nations to take further steps especially regarding equitable access to the anti-Covid-19 vaccines and more effective international solidarity on sharing the existing anti-Covid-19 vaccines with the most vulnerable population;
25. **Exhort** the nations to share the information, experiences and data concerning the Covid-19 pandemic and measures taken as well as the developments on diagnostics, treatments and prevention, including the anti-Covid-19 vaccines;
26. **Invite** the nations to look into possibilities to participate in vaccine development studies carried out in the Member Countries of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly.

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<sup>4</sup> Iran registered its reservation on word " Israel".



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## Draft Resolution on Asian Parliamentarians Against Corruption

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

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

**Welcoming** the adoption of resolution 8/14 – Promoting good practices in relation to the role of National Parliaments and other Legislative Bodies in preventing and combating corruption in all its forms – by the 8th Conference of States Parties to the UN Convention against Corruption held from 16 – 20 December 2019 in Abu Dhabi, UAE;

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

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

**Bearing in mind** that corruption is a transnational phenomenon and that prevention and eradication of corruption is the responsibility of all States and that they must cooperate with one another;

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

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

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

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



*We therefore,*

1. **Condemn** corruption at all levels and in all its forms, including bribery; money laundering; and abuse of power;
2. **Express** determination to prevent and combat corrupt practices in all forms and collaborate on facilitating asset recovery and returning such assets to their legitimate owners, in particular to countries of origin, in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption;
3. **Welcome** the significant number of Member States that have already ratified or acceded to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and in this regard urges all APA Member Parliaments that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the United Nations Convention against Corruption as a matter of priority, and urges all States Parties to the Convention to take appropriate measures ensuring its full and effective implementation;
4. **Resolve** to promote exchange of good practices and experiences regarding the role of Parliaments in preventing and countering corruption, including by raising awareness among public, reviewing and strengthening anti-corruption legislation, exercising parliamentary oversight, fostering a culture of transparency and accountability, promoting rule of law and strengthening institutions at national level;
5. **Recognize** the importance of strengthening Parliaments, role in combating corruption and promoting the exchange of good practices and national experience among Parliamentary Institutions as called for by the Resolution 8/14 adopted by the 8th Conference of States Parties to the UN Convention Against Corruption held from 16 – 20 December 2019 in Abu Dhabi, UAE;
6. **Invite** the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption to consider holding thematic discussion on strengthening the role of national parliaments in fighting corruption, including promoting the implementation of this Convention;
7. **Decide** to set up a working group under the auspices of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs to further consider the APA Plan of Action on Combating Corruption contained in APA/Res/2007/05/ Annex with a view to taking effective measures for enhancing synergy and interactions among Asian Parliamentarians in fighting corruption;
8. **Consider** to improve and expand working relations with important Asian organizations such as GOPAC ( Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption) Chapter in order to enhance synergy and areas for cooperation and joint initiatives;
9. **Urge** States Parties to United Nations Convention against Corruption that have not already done so to designate a central authority that shall have the responsibility

and power to receive requests for mutual legal assistance and either to execute them or to transmit them to the competent authorities for execution;

10. **Request** the Secretary-General to prepare in consultation with interested APA Delegations, particularly APA delegates with interest and experience in anti-corruption efforts, the required draft documents for consideration by the working group set up in this respect;
11. **Call on** member parliaments to empower civil society as an effective partner of parliaments and promote the role of the media in combating corruption in Asia;
12. **Also call on** member parliaments to encourage their governments to allocate a budget to support the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to promote the role of supreme audit institutions in preventing and combating corruption more effectively and strengthening cooperation between supervisory and anti-corruption bodies;
13. **Invite** member parliaments to encourage their governments to engage the private sector in developing criteria and procedures to protect against corruption;
14. **Urge** member parliaments to encourage their governments to provide and harness the full potential of employing education and technology in preventing and combating corruption to reduce the likelihood of the spread of corruption;
15. **Also invite** member parliaments to encourage their governments to implement strategies and policies aimed at combating corruption and to develop measures to combat impunity;
16. **Request** the APA Secretary-General to seek the views of Member Parliaments on implementation of this resolution.



## Draft Resolution on APA Women Parliamentarians

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

**Recalling** the APA Plenary Resolution (APA/Res/2010/06, 30 November, 2010) on the establishment of the Coordinating Meeting of APA Women Parliamentarians and the APA Resolution on Special Committee of APA Women Parliamentarians (APA/Res/2014/16) superseding the Coordinating Meeting of APA Women Parliamentarians, as well as other relevant resolutions;

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

**Being aware** of the importance of promoting the full and effective participation of women in scientific, social, political, cultural and economic affairs, and peace dialogue particularly in upcoming issues, including COVID- 19 pandemic response and recovery;

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

**Noting** that women face obstacles in entering Parliaments includes political, socio-economic and cultural environment;

**Acknowledging** the necessity to place on the agenda of APA meetings matters of importance to women such as eliminating violence against women, empowerment of women and their participation in political and economic life, and prevention of all kinds of harassments, sexual violence against women and girls, trafficking, and other types of exploitation including in situation of armed conflict particularly amid the humanitarian situations and emergencies;

**Considering** women's issues, including women's empowerment, eliminating violence and discrimination against them and involving women in political, economic and social aspects of life;

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

*Noting* that CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women) as well as the decisions of the Fourth World Conference on Women Beijing 1995, and its subsequent periodic follow-up conferences, being held every five years from Beijing +1 to Beijing + 5, have all developed a comprehensive framework for the protection and empowerment of women and girls, eliminating all forms of discrimination against them and ensuring that they obtain their legitimate rights for it states parties;

*Underlining* the need to facilitate networking between women parliamentarians of Asia to meet the challenges in women's issues, including in humanitarian situation, amid the Covid-19 pandemic and in combating the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures;

*We express* our deep concern about the negative and unfortunate consequences of the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic that have affected women in general, and the breadwinners in particular; and call on states and governments to take this matter into consideration, and they embark on the process of developing pandemic response and recovery policies;

*We therefore,*

1. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to ensure the full and effective inclusion of women in social, cultural, economic, political, and sustainable development affairs in Asia, at national, regional, and international levels as appropriate;
2. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to adopt legislations to facilitate women's representations in Asian Parliaments;
3. **Encourage** APA Women Parliamentarians to lead by example and place the interest of women at the heart of policy and decision making as an endeavor to encourage and engage more women into politics;
4. **Recommend** the importance of information and awareness campaigns to promote the integration of women into political participation and decision – making with a view to facilitate reaching national and international parliamentary institutions;
5. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to recognize the concerns of women, and to effectively implement the relevant provisions of United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which promote gender equality and empowerment of women with respect for national and cultural particularities of the Member States;
6. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to recognize that gender equality and empowerment of women as a stand-alone goal with clear targets and indicators that must be achieved through implementation of goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with respect to national and cultural particularities of the Member States; with goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); with respect for national and cultural particularities of the Member States;

7. **Determine** to enhance the activities of the Coordinating Meeting of APA Women Parliamentarian through more effective exchange of views and close interaction;
8. **Request** the Special Committee of APA Women Parliamentarians to expand the scope of its activities under the auspices of Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs and to take appropriate measures to facilitate networking among women parliamentarians in Asia;
9. **Request** the APA Secretariat to assign one special part of the website of the Assembly to facilitate networking among women parliamentarians of Asia covering updated information on the activities of the APA Women Parliamentarians;
10. **Express** grave concern at the dire situation of millions of women in all war-torn and conflict-ridden areas such as Palestine, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Myanmar, and Afghanistan who are inevitably in danger of and impacted by mortality and morbidity of themselves and their family members particularly their children, violence, discrimination, insecurity, poverty, hunger and so forth;
11. **Express** support of APA Member Parliaments in advancing women, peace and security agenda, particularly by enhancing women's role peacebuilding activities.



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

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

**Noting** the role of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations in fostering the values of compassion, inclusion, and respect in working towards a more just peaceful, inclusive world, by promoting greater understanding, tolerance and respect among civilizations, cultures, religions and beliefs;

**Recalling** with appreciation various global, regional and sub-regional initiatives on mutual understanding and interfaith harmony including the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 65/5 (2010), the International Conference on Environment, Peace and the Dialogue among Civilizations and Cultures (2005), the Asia- Europe Meeting Interfaith Dialogue on the theme "Building Interfaith Harmony within the International Community" (2005), the High Level Conference on International and Inter-Religious Dialogue (2014), and the seventh global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, (2016), the VI Congress of the Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, (2018), the "Human Fraternity Document for World Peace and Living Together" issued by Human Fraternity Meeting, (2019);

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

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

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

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

**Commending** the initiatives taken by the United Nations in support of dialogue among civilizations and religions, foremost among which is the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations UNAOC;

*Also welcoming* the initiatives of some countries who promote dialogue among people of different religions, including the Center for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue (KAICID), which was established in 2012, and the Global Center for Peaceful Coexistence that was established in 2018 and the inauguration of the Chair for Interfaith Dialogue and Peaceful Coexistence at Sapienza University in Rome in 2018;

*We therefore,*

1. **Decide** to apply for Asian Parliamentary Assembly's membership to the Group of Friends of the UN Alliance of Civilizations as proposed by Turkey during the 11<sup>th</sup> General Assembly with a view to contribute the efforts of providing lasting solutions to the rising trends of discrimination, xenophobia, intolerance and extremism;
2. **Maintain** that a regular dialogue between the APA Member Parliaments become an effective supplement for addressing the challenges of ongoing international conflicts based on religious differences and discrepancies;
3. **Denounce** the hatred stereotyping of persons based on their ethnicity and religion condemning any activity that leads towards the division between the followers of different faiths;
4. **Underline** the importance of moderation in as a value within societies for countering violent extremism and for further contributing to the promotion of inter-faith and inter-culture dialogue, tolerance, understanding and cooperation and Encourage efforts, as appropriate, to enable voice of moderation to work together in order to build a more secure, inclusive and peaceful world;
5. **Declare** that extremism and terrorism can not be attributed or accredited to any religion or nationality as these are common enemies of all humanity;
6. **Consider** that any form of xenophobia based on religion, belief, faith or ethnic adherence is contrary to the merits of inter-faith dialogue and has no place in the community of civilized nations;
7. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to consider providing a respective national legal instrument, with the aim of creating a conducive atmosphere for inter-faith dialogue and cooperation as well as harmony among all religions;
8. **Deplore**, in the strongest terms, all atrocities and acts of violence, committed by extremist and terrorist groups under the guise of religions and call upon all states to refrain from providing any support to such terrorist groups;
9. **Condemn** the misuse and distortion of religious beliefs, by extremist groups and their followers, which inflame intra-faith as well as inter-faith hatred and

hold them accountable for instigation of ill-judgment, violence, and brutality against people of other religions and faiths;

10. **Strongly condemn** any advocacy of hatred based on religion or belief which constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, whether it involves the use of print, audiovisual or electronic media or any other means;
11. **Call upon** the international community to be cognizant of humanitarian situations in Asia;
12. **Urge** all APA Member Parliaments to intensify their efforts for the development of international and regional frameworks to promote best practices which leads towards the inter faith harmony and collaboration;
13. **Invite** Member Parliaments to further promote reconciliation to help to ensure durable peace and sustained development, including by working with faith leaders and communities and through reconciliatory measures and acts of service and by encouraging forgiveness and compassion among individuals;
14. **Encourage** all member parliaments to pass laws and legislation to criminalize acts associated with defamation of religions and their sanctities, combat all forms of discrimination, and firmly renounce hate speech and Islamophobia;
15. **Emphasize** the importance of the concerted efforts of the international community in establishing specialized centers to combat extremist ideology and terrorism, in order to promote a culture of peace, security, and tolerance;
16. **Encourage** Asian countries to adhere to the principles and values set out in the Human Fraternity Document for World Peace and Living Together, reflecting the values of tolerance, moderation, and the rejection of racism;
17. **Encourage** Asian countries to develop a tolerance award to support the efforts in the fields of peace and tolerance;
18. **Request** the APA Secretary-General to seek the views as well as measures taken by APA Member Parliaments to implement this resolution and to report thereon to the next meeting of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs.





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

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

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

**Recalling** the relevant provisions where applicable on the protection of cultural heritage including the four Geneva Conventions (1949), the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (1954) and its related protocols, the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970), the *Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage* (1972), the New Delhi UNESCO Recommendation of 1956 concerning excavations undertaken in occupied territories, the inscription of the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls at the request of Jordan on the World Heritage List (1981) and on the List of World Heritage in Danger (1982) and related recommendations, resolutions and decisions of UNESCO, (UNESCO, the World Heritage Committee, Decision: 42 COM 7A.21, Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls (site proposed by Jordan, C 148 rev);

**Underlining** the obligation for all States Parties to urgently implement the provisions in paragraphs 15 to 17 of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2199 (2015), in reference to the cultural heritage at risk in Iraq and Syria;

**Taking into account** the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2347 (2017) which aims at mainstreaming the protection of cultural heritage at the global level;

**Recalling** the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict of 14 May 1954 and its Protocols of 14 May 1954 and 26 March 1999, and the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property of 14 November 1970;

**Recalling** the United Nations General Assembly resolution 66/180 of 19 December 2011 on “Strengthening Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Responses to Protect Cultural Property, especially with regard to its Trafficking”, in which the Assembly urged Member States and relevant institutions, as appropriate, to reinforce and fully implement mechanisms to strengthen international cooperation, including mutual legal assistance, in order to combat all forms and aspects of trafficking in cultural property and related offences, such as the theft, looting, damage, removal, pillage and destruction of cultural property, and to facilitate the recovery and return of stolen and looted cultural property, and recalling also General Assembly resolutions

68/186 of 18 December 2013 on strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to protect cultural property, especially with regard to its trafficking 69/196 of 18 December 2014, entitled “International Guidelines for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Responses with Respect to Trafficking in Cultural Property and Other Related Offences ,” and 70/76 of 9 December 2015 on return or restitution of cultural property to the countries of origin;

**Welcoming** the important and active role that the UN and its relevant agencies play in countering money laundering and terrorist financing linked to trade in smuggled artifacts, in particular, in Asia;

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

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

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

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

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

1. **Urge** all APA Member Parliaments to utilize their legislative role to prevent and punish the smuggling of cultural objects in Asia and facilitate concerted efforts to return the stolen items back to their original locations without any cost to the original owner country;
2. **Call on** all APA member parliaments that have not yet done so to consider ratifying the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (1954), UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970), UNESCO Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972), UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage-2001 and the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003);
3. **Request** all APA Member Parliaments to strengthen their national legislation on protecting cultural properties and combatting all forms of smuggling in cultural property and related offences to be enacted on the basis of the common principles prepared by APA Secretariat and annexed to this resolution, and in accordance with their own internal legislative procedures;

4. **Recommend** the formation of a separate Corps Unit from APA Member Parliaments to protect and safeguard historical cultural properties from the perils of unlawful excavations, theft and smuggling;
5. **Express** support for the further strengthening of the system of management to protect movable cultural heritage from theft and smuggling of cultural properties;
6. **Urge** APA member parliament and national government to work more closely in the development of legislations and implementation of laws aiming at the combat of cross-border illicit trade and smuggling of cultural artifacts and other cultural assets, while also ensuring mutual support and assistance by law-enforcement bodies in the combat operations;
7. **Request** the Secretary General to provide assistance to APA Member States who are in need of revising their legislation. A separate Corps Unit should be formed from Group of all APA Member Parliaments to protect and safeguard historical cultural properties from the perils of clandestine excavation, theft and smuggling;
8. **Urge** all Member Parliaments to exercise efforts to jointly register their shared tangible and intangible cultural heritages at UNESCO's relevant list.



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

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

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

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

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

**Emphasizing** that the danger of illicit drug trafficking is pervasive so there is an urgent need to mobilize efforts of all countries to curb the production of opium and heroin in the Asian continent and to dismantle networks of illicit drug trafficking from all over Asia;

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

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

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

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

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

**Expressing** the need to increase international and regional support for the capacity building of law-enforcement agencies in the areas most affected by the illicit cultivation of narcotic crops, production and trafficking of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursor chemicals in Asia, and to intensify training programs for their law-enforcement staff;

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

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

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

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

**Emphasizing** the need to assist countries most affected by or at risk of the illicit cultivation of narcotic crops in developing its economy and diversifying agriculture so as to reduce people’s dependence on revenues from the illicit cultivation of narcotic crops and trafficking, of narcotic drugs, taking into account the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development and in line with national legislation;

**Reaffirming** that Alternative Development is crucial, lawful, viable and sustainable alternative to the illicit cultivation of narcotic crops, that it is an effective measure and one of the key components of policies and programs to counter illicit drug production and other drug-related crime challenges, and stressing that the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development will contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

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

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

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

*We therefore,*

1. **Call upon** Asian Parliaments to coordinate among themselves to review relevant legislation to address different aspects of combating illicit drug trafficking by harmonizing laws and making minimum punishment stronger;
2. **Call upon** Asian Parliaments to adopt laws on extradition of convicted persons on terrorism and illicit drug trafficking to their countries of origin for fair trial based on national legislations;
3. **Stress** the need to exchange information and best practices within APA Member Parliaments on combating illicit drug trafficking;
4. **Remain vigilant** to the new modus operandi through the digital world and also the availability of the new substances of drug which are not yet listed in the respective national illicit drug lists and call for strong cooperation between APA Member Countries on these issues;
5. **Reiterate** the need to coordinate and improve law enforcement activities to combat the production and trafficking of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursor chemicals and curtailing the flow of illicit drug more effectively;
6. **Encourage** the APA Member Parliaments to consider adopting relevant legislation regulations to strengthen international cooperation to support comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs, as an essential elements of successful crop control strategies, especially in areas affected by or at risk of the illicit cultivation of crops, taking into account the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development and Member Parliaments with extensive relevant expertise to continue to share best practices, upon request;
7. **Underline** the importance of effectively using international financial assistance for the creation of alternative economic opportunities in order to ensure a sustainable anti-drug policy;
8. **Call upon** APA Asian Parliaments to enable civil society as an effective partner of parliaments and to enhance the role of mass media in combating drug trafficking in Asia;

9. **Encourage** all APA Member Parliaments to support their respective governments in order to coordinate with international and regional organizations including the United Nations (UN) to combat the threats of terrorism, illicit drug trafficking, transnational organized crime and legalization of income derived from criminal activities;
10. **Urge** that a regular dialogue on supporting joint actions of Asian governments against abovementioned threats within APA could become an effective supplement for addressing the challenges of international illicit drug trafficking and transnational organized crime in the region;
11. **Express** our commitment to encourage and enhance cooperation with all relevant states and international and regional organizations, on matters of common interest in the spirit of this resolution on rendering assistance to combat illicit drug trafficking;
12. **Encourage** networking of the relevant national agencies or organizations in Asia dealing with transnational crimes to further enhance information dissemination and intelligence exchange;
13. **Request** the APA Secretary General to seek the views of all Member Parliaments on ways and means for effective implementation of this resolution.



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## Draft Resolution on Humanitarian Aid to Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Gaza and Myanmar on the Verge of the Humanitarian Catastrophe

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

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

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

**Appreciating** the renewal of UN Security Council Resolution 2165 on 13 December 2018 and the ability to enable cross border assistance in Syria;

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

**Welcoming** the achievements of the Astana format since January 2017, in particular, the progress made in reducing violence across the Syrian Arab Republic and contributing to peace, security and stability in the country;

**Reaffirming** their determination to continue joint efforts aimed at protecting civilians and improving their humanitarian situation via facilitating rapid, safe and unhindered humanitarian access to the nations of Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Myanmar;

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

**Welcoming** all measures taken by APA Members Parliaments' governments to assist Syrian, Iraqi, Yemeni and Myanmar displaced persons and<sup>5</sup> refugees including, inter alia, through providing them with humanitarian aids, safe border crossing and temporary settlement;

**Welcoming** APA countries who have announced opening their international borders to refugees;

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<sup>5</sup> Delegation of Turkey expressed reservation on "displaced persons and" in this paragraph.



*We therefore,*

1. **Deliver** humanitarian support to Syrian, Iraqi, Yemeni and Myanmar civilians across conflict lines and border crossings both multilaterally and bilaterally in accordance with UN General Assembly Resolution 46/182;
2. **Support** efforts of countries that host refugees and provide humanitarian aid and recommend to take every effort to facilitate aid delivery in Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Gaza and Myanmar;
3. **Encourage** all relevant parties to further allow UN humanitarian agencies and their partners to utilize routes across conflict lines and border crossings in Syria in accordance with UN General Assembly resolution 46/182 and UN Security Council resolutions 2139 and 2165;
4. **Provide** assistance to Iraqi, Syrian, Yemeni, Gaza and Myanmar internally displaced persons and refugees, deprived of basic needs and desperate in search of shelter;
5. **Stress** that humanitarian aid delivery in Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Gaza and Myanmar should be carried on in accordance with International Law and National Legislations of these States and condemn any attempt to violate those laws;
6. **Assist** in creating conditions for the safe and voluntary return as well as their unconditional repatriation of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) to their original places of residence in Syria and Iraq, Myanmar and Yemen;
7. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to closely monitor the safe, voluntary and unconditional repatriation of refugees and internally displaced persons in order to ensure the sustainability of the process and the safety of the refugees.



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

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

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

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

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

**Taking note of** the importance of the 2016 New York Declaration on Refugee and Migrants and ASEAN Consensus on the Protection and the Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers<sup>6</sup>;

**Acknowledging** the significance of ILO Conventions concerning the protection of the rights of migrant workers as well as United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and Protocols Thereto 'Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children' and 'Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air in promoting human rights of Asian migrant workers without prejudice to their sex, race, language, religion, nationality, or ethnic origin;

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

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<sup>6</sup> Adopted with reservations from Thailand.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*We therefore,*

1. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to consider accession to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families to stress Asian commitment on the protection of the rights of migrant workers and humanitarian issues in Asia;
2. **Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to enhance and harmonize their actions towards a better protection of migrant workers' rights, especially the cases of women and children;
3. **Also Call Upon** APA Member Parliaments to urge their respective Government to integrate visions, principles, objectives and commitments enshrined under the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration adopted at the UN Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration held in Morocco, December 2018 into their migrant-related national policies;
4. **Request** APA sending countries to provide migrant workers with adequate skills and knowledge in order to be able to fulfill their task and understand the culture, prevailing laws and regulation in the receiving countries;
5. **Emphasizing** that Urge the APA Member States should to facilitate vocational training for migrant labor forces so that those migrant workers can integrate into the receiving country, ensuring their life and contributing to socio-economic development, stability and security in every country;
6. **Urge** APA Member Parliaments to ensure that, in case of violation of domestic laws, such laws should be applied in a fair and just manner to both migrant workers and citizens;
7. **Encourage** the promotion of bilateral and regional cooperation among countries in all areas and issues of migrant workers to maximize the potential benefits and minimize the negative impacts of migration;
8. **Encourage** the respective States of the APA Member Parliaments to consider bilateral, or regional agreements including Mandatory Consular Notification Agreement under the spirit of Vienna Convention on Consular Relations; whereby the sending countries are well informed on the legal problems faced by their migrant workers;
9. **Emphasize** the importance of involving United Nations system, international organizations, civil society, and non-government organizations, and increasing participation and interaction with all stakeholders to enable government to develop better policies and supervise the implementation of regulations on migrant workers issues;

10. **Recommend** APA Member Parliaments to provide adequate information on regulation, legislation and policies related to migrant workers in their respective countries, and to share information and best practices as well as opportunities and challenges encountered by Asian countries in relation to the protection and promotion of migrant workers' rights and welfare;
11. **Urge** the APA relevant member countries to promote fair and proper working conditions, proper minimum wages, and adequate access to decent living conditions and health for migrant workers;
12. **Request** the Secretary-General to coordinate with APA Member Parliaments on the progress to implement this resolution and submit a report thereon to the meeting of the Standing committee on Social and Cultural Affairs.



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## Draft Resolution on the Promotion of Quality Child and Youth Development for Sustainable Society in Asia

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

**Recalling** UN General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, during which the General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and recognized children and youth as critical agents of change;

**Recognizing** the role of parliaments in promoting the human rights and empowerment of children and youth in Asia;

**Stressing** the commitment of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goals 4, 5, 8, 16, based on national rules and cultural backgrounds, as the basis for building sustainable, peaceful and inclusive societies in Asia;

**Recognizing** that the cooperation between APA Member Parliaments can be instrumental in promoting quality child and youth development in the region;

**Reaffirming** that the general principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, including the best interests of the child, non-discrimination, participation and survival and development, provide the international legal framework for actions concerning children; to ensure children are protected in their rights, based on national rules and cultural background;

**Reaffirming** the World Program of Action on Youth including the best interests of the youth, non-discrimination, participation, survival and development and provide framework of actions concerning youth; to ensure youth are protected in their rights;

*We therefore,*

1. **Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to recognize the importance of the quality child and youth development and to consider, with participation of children and youth, the provision of comprehensive social welfare, including access to health care, nutrition, quality education, training for skill development and other essential services to empower children and youth as healthy, responsible and productive members of society;
2. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to take appropriate measures to enhance cooperation among Member Parliaments to promote quality child and

youth development, care and assistance, as well as to protect all children and youth from all forms of violence, abuse, radicalization, exploitation and discrimination;

3. **Also encourage** APA Member Parliaments to strengthen and, where necessary, enact or reform legislations to ensure that all children and youth are protected against all forms of violence, as well as to improve child and youth development schemes;
4. **Request** the APA Secretary-General to submit, in collaboration with APA Member Parliaments, a report to the meeting of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs Parliaments on the implementation of this resolution.



## Draft Resolution on Ageing Society in Asia

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

**Recalling** its resolution 2017/12 Resolution on The Role of APA Parliaments in Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and resolution 2017/17 on Collaboration on Health Equity in Asia;

**Recalling** UN General Assembly resolution 57/167 of 18 December 2002, in which it endorsed the Political Declaration and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, and subsequent resolutions No. 59/150 of 01 February 2005 on the Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing;

**Welcoming** UN General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, in which the General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and stressing the need to ensure that issues of relevance to older persons are taken into account in its implementation in order to ensure that no one is left behind, including older persons;

**Recognizing** that the ageing population in many countries in Asia is rapidly growing whereas the fertility rates in those respective countries are significantly declining;

**Acknowledging** that the older persons in Asia are expected to account for over 17 percent by 2030, due to higher life expectancy;

**Being concerned** that misconception and prejudice remains a challenge to opportunity for and engagement of older persons in productive employment in some countries, taking into account the unique culture of respect towards older persons in Asia;

**Being mindful** that public adaptation and preparedness through a life-course, multifaceted approach are keys to help society effectively respond to the burdens as commonly regarded in aged society;

**Acknowledging** that older persons have made significant contribution to national social and economic gains and, therefore, enactment of effective legislation should be encouraged to remove barriers in realizing full potential of older persons;

*We therefore,*

1. **Calls upon** APA Member Parliaments to consider developing and adopting legislations on social protection, health-care services, and employment opportunities for older



persons, as well as exploring innovative legislations such as phased-retirement, job sharing and part-time works;

2. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to monitor the implementation of their respective governments' ageing policies and to accord priority to the availability of evidence-based, accurate, reliable and up-to-date data and information in order to ensure effective, efficient and sustainable implementation;
3. **Urge** APA Member Parliaments to exercise their constituent authority to maximize opportunities for older persons, including through promoting flexible work and alternative employability arrangements, as appropriate;
4. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to work with their relevant constituencies and community-based mechanisms to promote an enabling volunteer environment for older persons, taking into account different social contexts and norms;
5. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to develop legislation and policies to promote an enabling environment to the lives of older persons and to proactively provide services to them and improve the quality of such services, particularly health services;
6. **Stress** the importance of promoting and supporting international efforts, particularly the efforts exerted by the United Nations, as the UN launched a set of goals that include raising awareness of the health needs of the older persons and their contributions to the communities in which they live, and a better understanding of Covid19 pandemic's impact on them in order to achieve the 2030 sustainable development objectives;
7. **Call on** member parliaments to encourage their governments to continuously launch programs, initiatives, and events in social development centers in Asian countries in cooperation with the government and national institutions to raise awareness among all segments of society about the needs of the older persons, on the one hand, motivate the older persons and consolidate their role on the other hand. This, in turn, shall actuate all aspects of the active lives of older persons, and ensure their active and continuous participation in their communities.



## Draft Resolution on Human Development in Asia

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

**Recalling** our commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals for the years 2015-2030, which includes poverty eradication and focuses on providing good health, welfare, gender equality, appropriate education and work, and economic growth; Especially in view of the need to contain the repercussions of the Covid-19 pandemic outbreak on these areas in the countries of the continent; and the need for response and recovery policies from the pandemic to include a guarantee that reverses the negative impact of the pandemic on it; and the return of the sustainable development process to the right track;

**Reaffirming** on APA Goals to harness cooperation to use enormous human and natural resources, and to ensure the interests of all member states;

**Reminding** parliament members of APA to take collective procedures for supporting governments and other active parties in the region, and to promote the exchange of opinions and expertise with parliaments from other regions, in the context of poverty eradication and promoting equality;

**Recognizing** that human development is an extensive and accumulative process that, bears not only financial and economic aspects, but also covers social, cultural, health, natural environment and political domains, with an ultimate goal of human prosperity;

**Taking into consideration** acts related to the UN Development Program (UNDP) particularly the Human Development Report 2020: The next frontier: Human Development and Anthropocene;

**Emphasizing** that the human element is the basis of renaissance and material development in different societies;

**Emphasizing** the fundamental role of parliaments through the enactment of legislation, budget adoption, and their role in ensuring human development;

**Affirming** on the need to train Asian manpower and human resources to realize one of the most important feature of economic globalization by enhancing their competitive capabilities in the world market while utilizing the dynamics of globalization in which the balance of economic power keeps changing;

*We therefore,*

1. **Suggest** creating a technical and professional training center under the umbrella of the APA to provide joint efforts to push sustainable development goals forward;
2. **Encourage** setting a unified criterion for national capacity building;
3. **Promote** coordination based on professional standards that are set by professionals in the job market;
4. **Urge** developed countries and also regional United Nation office in Asia to support the proposed training center project and encourage their parliaments to take steps towards the realization of this goal in compliance with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals;
5. **Call on** APA Member Parliaments to increase the budgetary allocations for education, health, and housing for their direct impact on developing human capital, offer adequate opportunities for the human element for creativity, innovation, and active participation in looking ahead;
6. **Also call on** APA Member Parliaments to create strategic partnerships and work closely with governments and public institutions on issues related to promoting human development.



## Draft Resolution on Tourism Cooperation in Asia

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

***Being cognizant*** of the economic significance of the tourism and travel sectors as well as their roles in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular in the protection of cultural and natural heritage and contribution to enhanced mutual understanding and better relations among peoples as a platform for peace and stability;

***Recalling*** our commitment to the resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 25 September 2015, titled “Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” (A/RES/70/1), which exhorts to develop and implement policies to promote more resilient, inclusive and sustainable tourism sector, and acknowledges the role of tourism in creating jobs and promoting local culture and products as well as preserving them for the future generations;

***Taking into account*** the recommendations and guidelines set forth by the United Nations World Tourism Organization for actions to be taken to mitigate the adverse impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on tourism and for recovery plans and programs for tourism;

***Recognizing*** the potential of multilateral regional frameworks such as the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD), an Asia wide forum which declared “culture and tourism” as well as “education and human resource development” as two out of its six priority areas of cooperation;

***Considering*** the deep-rooted, comprehensive and ever-growing relations between the Asian Parliamentary Assembly Member States, including in trade, tourism and travel as well as the need to make best use of this potential;

***Recognizing*** the significant role of parliaments in promoting tourism industry, which employs and provides livelihoods to high number of people in the Member Countries;

***Further acknowledging*** the short and long-term economic and social impacts of the COVID- 19 pandemic and the need for a speedy and safe recovery in all sectors following the overall guidance of relevant international organizations and initiatives;

***Noting*** that COVID-19 pandemic had severe negative impacts on tourism industry worldwide and compelled countries to introduce safe travel measures that need to be standardized and institutionalized for future similar pandemics;

***Emphasizing*** the need to consider tourism and travel sectors, which are among the hardest-hit sectors by the pandemic, as a vital pillar of recovery efforts;

**Referring** to the importance of increasing bilateral, regional and international cooperation for the purpose of mitigating the adverse impacts of the pandemic on tourism and travel sectors.



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## Draft Resolution on Sustainable Tourism Cooperation in Asia

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

**Recalling** its resolution 2017/12 Resolution on The Role of APA Parliaments in Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals;

**Re-emphasizing** cultural diversity and protection of cultural heritage in Asia;

**Highlighting** promotion of inter-faith dialogue and harmony among World Religions;

**Recalling** UN General Assembly resolution A/RES/75/229 on Promotion of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, for poverty eradication and environment protection;

**Stressing** that poverty is a multifaceted problem that requires a multifaceted and integrated approach in addressing its economic, political, social, environmental and institutional dimensions at all levels;

**Recognizing** that sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, health tourism, cultural tourism, pilgrimage tourism is a cross-cutting activity that effectively contribute to the three dimensions of sustainable development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, including by fostering economic growth, alleviating poverty, creating full and productive employment and decent work for all, accelerating the change to more sustainable consumption and production patterns and promoting the sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources, promoting local culture, improving the quality of life and the economic empowerment of young people and development of better living conditions for rural populations;

**Noting** the initiatives launched and the events organized at the sub regional, regional and international levels in the field of sustainable tourism;

**Acknowledging** the contribution of tourism industry to the economic development of the societies and as a tool for promoting understanding, peace and prosperity among nations;

**Underlining** the vast potential of the our region in the field of tourism and its ability to increase the region's share in global tourism and calling upon the need for protection and conservation of its natural and cultural heritage and safeguarding cultural richness, natural beauty, social values as well as local communities and traditions of the indigenous peoples;

*Have decided to,*

1. **Establish** our region as a peaceful and green tourism destination with diverse products and high quality services while ensuring responsible and sustainable tourism development and upgrading quality of life of the people through effective involvement of all stake holders throughout the process;
2. **Promote** Inter- regional tourism cooperation through regional integration organizations particularly ASEAN, ECO and other existing platforms;
3. **Support** regional tourism exchanges particularly for persons engaged in the tourism industry;
4. **Promote** Silk Road tourism through arranging events and festivals and in cooperation with the international community and relevant organizations will be revived;
5. **Facilitate** Visa procedures for the citizens of the Region;
6. **Strengthen** and diversify tourism health/medical, culture, winter, sea, mountain desert, religious and other niche areas/domains;
7. **Support** utilization of electronic media, human resource development and capacity building activities;
8. **Devise** and promote green tourism strategy in collaboration with international tourism bodies;
9. **Encourage** private sector and local community involvement in the tourism activities will be strengthened;
10. ....
11. **Selecting** the city of Zanjan, Islamic Republic of Iran as **Asia Tourism Capital** for the years 2023 as well as the cities of ----- for the years 2024 and 2025 respectively;
12. **Requests** the Secretariat to submit to the next meeting of...,a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including recommendations on ways and means to promote sustainable tourism in Asia, in a balanced and integrated manner.