



Standing Committee on Budget and Planning

(Virtual Meeting)

Moscow, Russian Federation

4 August 2021

Final Report

The Virtual Meeting of the Standing Committee on Budget and Planning was held on August 4, 2021 in Moscow at the invitation of the State Duma of the Russian Federation and Parliamentary delegations from the following 13 member countries participated in the Meeting:

Bahrain, Cambodia, China, India, Iran, Kuwait, Mongolia, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey and UAE. ([Attachment I](#))

1. Adoption of the Agenda

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

2. Opening Remarks by the Chairman

The Meeting was chaired by Head of the Russian Delegation, H.E. Mr. A. LYASHCHENKO, the APA Vice President. He welcomed the participants at the Meeting and expressed hope that through active engagement of all members, this meeting would constructively address the important topics under consideration.

3. Statement by Representative of the APA President

H.E. Mrs. A. ERDOGAN, the Representative of the APA President presented her statement. ([Attachment III](#))

4. Report of the APA Secretary General

In his report to the Standing Committee on Budget and Planning, APA Secretary General briefed the delegations with a history of decisions and developments of the planning of the budget of the APA Secretariat from 2008 up to 2020 for a better understanding of what has been achieved so far in order to reach a solid agreement in this regard.

In order to keep the momentum, he proposed the WG on Statutory Document be tasked to find a final solution for the model of payment of the APA Budget. He also underlined that in the current situation this proposal could serve as the most feasible solution to the long lasting issue of adopting a satisfactory formula for a model of payment to all APA member parliaments. ([Attachment IV](#))

5. Consideration of the Draft Resolution on Planning APA Budget:

Participants mainly debated over the amount of the Assessed Contribution, its background and the model of payment.

The Chair stated that there was not enough time to consider the amendments to the draft resolution. Therefore, it would be much better to defer consideration of the original text and revisiting of those amendments to the next meeting of the Standing Committee.

Views expressed by the participants on the issues under deliberation can be summed up as follows:

- **Bahrain:** “Let us agree on the equal payment of 20000 USD per member parliament as an initial payment to the APA Budget. We may then proceed to determine the issue of GDP percentage...Palestine and LDC countries are exempted from this...we should fix the contribution amount to allow parliaments to put it in their budget”.
- **India:** “ We have always supported the equal payment of 20000 USD...the best model of payment is the mixture of GDP and equal contribution...the equal amount of contribution should be decided by all member parliaments...we recognize the important role that Iran has played in supporting APA activities. Recommend to consider amendments to the draft resolution in the next meeting of the Committee”.
- **Iran:** “ All member parliaments should pay their shares to the APA Budget...there is no consensus on the current three different models of payment...we should have a face to face meeting of the Working Group to address this issue”.
- **UAE:** “ Equal payment is the only route to activate the APA...we should first agree on equal payment of 20000 USD”.
- **Mongolia:**” Let us also consider the UN approach on the Budget...Asian economy has been badly damaged lately”.
- **Cambodia:**” The time has come for us to stand on our own feet after 15 years of benefiting from financial support of Iran to APA...equal payment of 20000 USD is a bit too much burden on Cambodia...we pay much less to IPU”.
- **Pakistan:**” We do not agree with the notion of equal payment...our economy has been battered due to pandemic...our GDP has been dropped...contributions should be based on GDP...no exemption to the payment rule is accepted”.

- **Turkey:**” We support any formula which is agreed by all members...non-payment of contributions weakens APA...Turkey will host the in- person meetings of the Working Group on Statutory Documents and the Second APA Bureau meeting in late September 2021...member parliaments should state their choice of model of payment in writing”.
- **China:**” We highly value the work of APA...promotion of peace is important... we should recognize the diversities of Asian countries...pandemic creates difficulties for face to face meetings”.

The Chairman concluded the debate and summarized it as follows:

- The current model of payment is approved.
- We thank Iran for continuing its financial support to the APA.
- We also thank parliament of Turkey and others for hosting APA meetings. Russian Federation also hosted a meeting in Naryan-mar.
- No consensus on the amount of assessed contribution and on the model of payment.
- Consideration of the only draft resolution before this Committee is deferred to the next meeting .We hope to resolve these issues and reach a consensus on the amount and model of payment before reporting to the Executive Council.
- We thank Turkey for offering its kind support for APA by hosting the two important meetings of the Working Group as well as the APA Bureau in the coming months.

6- Closing of the Meeting

The Meeting started at 07:00 GMT and terminated at 09:00 GMT.

7- Any other Matters

No issue was raised.

Attachment I

Asian Parliamentary Assembly



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Registration Form

(8/4/2021 by APA Secretariat)

List of Participants

Participating countries (13):

Bahrain, Cambodia, China, India, Iran, Kuwait, Mongolia, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, United Arab Emirates.

No.	Country	First Name	Last Name	Position
1	Bahrain	Ahmed	Alsalloom	Member of Council of Representatives- Head of Delegation
2	Bahrain	Abdulaziz	Abul	Member of Shura council
3	Bahrain	Mohamed	Bin Daina	Parliamentary Relation Development Specialist – Council of Representatives
4	Cambodia	Hon. Kim Yeat	CHHIT	Vice- Chairman of the Commission on Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, Media and Information, Head of delegation (Senator).
5	Cambodia	Hon. Marias	Kop	Member of the Commission on Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, Media and Information, Member (MP).
6	Cambodia	H.E.Mr. Bunly	HOK	Deputy director of International Relation Department of the Secretariat-General of the National Assembly, Assistant

7	Cambodia	Mr. Thy	SENG	Chief of the International Relations Office of the Secretariat-General of the National Assembly, Assistant
8	China	Lin	Cai	Member of the Financial and Economic Affairs Committee of the National People's Congress of China
9	India	Bhartruhari	Mahtab	Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha (House of People)
10	India	L.V.	Ramana	Director, Lok Sabha Secretariat (Delegation Coordinator)
11	Iran	Masoumeh	PASHAEI BAHRAM	Member of Parliament Chairperson of the APA Group HEAD OF DELEGATION
12	Iran	Jalil	Rahimi Jahanabadi	Member of Parliament
13	Iran	Gholamreza	NooriGhezeljeh	Member of Parliament
14	Iran	Leila	Taati	International Officer
15	Iran	Reza	Hasani	International Officer
16	Kuwait	ABDULAZIZ	NASRALLAH	Senior Specialist
17	Kuwait	SAUD	ALRAQAM	Political science professional
18	Mongolia	Bulgantuya	Khurelbaatar	Member of Parliament
19	Pakistan	Ms. Kishwar	Zehra	Member National Assembly
20	Russia	Aleksei	Lyashchenko	MP
21	Saudi Arabia	Dr. Hani	khashoggi	Member of Asian parliamentary
22	Saudi Arabia	Mr.Faris	Alqahtani	Parliamentary researcher
23	Syria	MHD. RABIE	KALAJE	Chair of Budget and Accountant Committee
24	Syria	MUSTAFA	LAYLA	Chair of Budget and Accountant Committee

25	Syria	MAHMOUD	BELAL	Vice-Chair of Budget and Accountant Committee
26	Syria	BURHAN	ALABDUL WAHAB	Rapporteur of Budget and Accountant Committee
27	Turkey	ASUMAN	ERDOĞAN	MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT HEAD OF DELEGATION
28	Turkey	RAMAZAN	CAN	MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT MEMBER OF DELEGATION
29	Turkey	GÖKMEN	TOPLU	DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF FOREIGN RELATIONS AND PROTOCOL DEPT. OF GNAT
30	Turkey	REZAK	TAVLI	FOREIGN RELATIONS AND PROTOCOL DEPT. OF GNAT Assistant Legislative Expert
31	Turkey	MURAT	HASTÜRK	FOREIGN RELATIONS AND PROTOCOL DEPT. OF GNAT Senior Officer
32	Turkey	F.SİREL	DELİLOĞLU	FOREIGN RELATIONS AND PROTOCOL DEPT. OF GNAT Officer
33	United Arab Emirates	MOHAMMED	ALKASHF	HEAD OF DELEGATION
34	United Arab Emirates	DR.NEDAL	ALTUNAJI	MEMBER
35	United Arab Emirates	AYESHA	ALMULLA	MEMBER
36	APA Secretariat	Mr. Mohammad Reza	MAJIDI	Secretary General of APA
37	APA Secretariat	Amb. Mr. Kia	TABATABAEE	Deputy Secretary General of APA

38	APA Secretariat	Mr. Mehdi	GHASHGHAVI	Executive Deputy of Secretariat
39	APA Secretariat	Mr. Mehdi	MOLLAHOSSEINI	APA Senior Expert
40	APA Secretariat	Mr. Javad	HASHEMI	APA Director of International Affairs
41	APA Secretariat	Mr. Saeed	SOHRABINIA	APA Director of Information Technology

Attachment II

Asian Parliamentary Assembly

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Draft Agenda



(7/24/2021 by APA Secretariat)

- 1- Adoption of the Agenda
- 2- Opening Remarks by Chairperson
- 3- Statement by Representative of APA President
- 4- Report by APA Secretary General
- 5-Consideration of:
 - Draft Resolution on Planning APA Budget
- 6- Closing Session
- 7- Any other matters



Asian Parliamentary Assembly

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Program of Work

(7/24/2021 by APA Secretariat)

4 August 2021	
07:00 - 07:15 (GMT)	- Opening Of the Meeting - Adoption of the Agenda
07:15 - 07:30 (GMT)	- Opening Remarks by Chairperson - Statement by Representative of APA President - Report by APA Secretary General
07:30 - 10:00 (GMT)	- Consideration of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Draft Resolution on Planning APA Budget
10:00 (GMT)	- Closing of the Meeting

Attachment III

Honourable Secretary-General,

Distinguished Delegations,

First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere gratitude and appreciation to those countries and international organizations who have helped Turkey in its fight against forest fires recently erupted in many parts of the country, and to those who have offered their condolences and expressed their wishes for a speedy recovery. Thank you all who are praying with us, wishing us success and helping us in our efforts to put out these heartbreaking wildfires.

As for this videoconference, I would like to thank the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation and Head of Russian Delegation to the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, His Excellency Mr. Alexei LYASCHENKO, as well as the Secretariat of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly for their invaluable efforts of holding this meeting of the Standing Committee on Budget and Planning. I also would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to all APA Member Parliaments and distinguished delegations for their participation in the meeting and for their invaluable collaboration efforts.

Esteemed Delegations,

Despite the havoc wreaked by the Covid-19 pandemic across the globe, as the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, we have paid utmost attention to the continuation of our efforts of holding meetings, contributing parliamentary diplomacy and working on new channels to step up our cooperation in the continent, through videoconferences, also face-to-face meeting as was the case in the APA Bureau Meeting in December last year.

Nevertheless, as we have moved towards post-Covid-19 pandemic era, I would like to point to the need for new initiatives and attempts under the Asian Parliamentary Assembly to render the Assembly more capable, efficient and robust. I believe, it is of paramount importance to forge groundbreaking channels and platforms so as to bolster and deepen open dialogue and cooperation among Asian Parliaments. New initiatives should aim at promoting parliamentary diplomacy and focus on efforts to guarantee that no countries should be left behind and all countries should be represented in the upcoming post-Covid-19 world.

There is no doubt that the pace of the change in the current international system has further been accelerated by the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic. The pandemic has indicated us once again that the existing international system and world order are no longer sustainable and they are obviously unable to remedy current obstructions and challenges across the globe. Therefore, this systemic shift propels us to develop rather inclusive mechanisms, different points of view and more comprehensive and inclusive paradigms by going beyond the existing narrow and biased Western-Centric understanding of global issues.

Forging more robust, effective and resilient mechanisms in which parliamentary diplomacy could play a leading role in addressing global issues and shaping collaborative international,

regional and global institutions in the new era would be some significant steps towards aforementioned end, especially in building inter- and intra-regional connectivity, peace, security and stability as well as in reaching sustainable development goals in the continent. Parliamentary diplomacy in the post-covid-19 world should hark voices of all countries, developed and developing alike, in the region and effectively bring issue-areas into deliberations, particularly issue-areas on which regional countries` interests and views converge.

In this regard, as the representative of President of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, I deem it crucial to devise new channels and initiatives under the Asian Parliamentary Assembly in order to best position Asian Countries amidst changing international system and global order. Also, I believe the necessity of participation of all Member Parliaments in closely working together to better build and institutionalise platforms for parliamentary diplomacy under the Asian Parliamentary Assembly in the post-Covid-19 world. We should work together to broaden the capacity of this platforms and to create synergy among the Member Parliaments in order to bring new ideas as well as peaceful and permanent solutions to regional issues.

I hope and believe this meeting will contribute to our diplomatic efforts towards abovementioned goals and parliamentary solidarity in the region.

Thank you!

Attachment IV



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Report of the Secretary General

**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegate,
Dear Colleagues,**

It is a great pleasure and opportunity for me to welcome you all to the third APA regular Committee meeting being held in virtual format in year 2021. I highly appreciate all member parliaments who are present here at this meeting in such a short notice and the APA Presidency for supporting the Secretariat to hold this meeting. At the same time, allow me to seize this opportunity to thank and appreciate the State Duma of Russian Federation who took the burden of holding this virtual event.

Dear Colleagues,

As you may recall, at its meeting of 3-5 September 2019, in Baghdad, the Standing Committee adopted the “Draft Resolution on Planning APA Budget”. Subsequently, at 12th Plenary in December 2019 in Antalya, Turkey, delegates engaged in an extensive exchange of views on the Draft Resolution and in conclusion the consideration of the Draft Resolution was deferred to the next Standing Committee meeting.

Today, I intend to brief you with a short history of decisions and developments of the planning budget of the APA Secretariat from 2008 up to 2020, for a better understanding of what we have done so far and how we should proceed to overcome the differences and reach to a solid agreement in this regard.

- The issue of establishing financial and staff regulations for the Secretariat was raised for the first time in November 2008 in Jakarta by APA members and in June 2014 in Cambodia, the related Ad-hoc Committee on Financial and Staff Regulations, approved the draft resolution on Financial and Staff Regulations with its attachment.

- The 7th APA Plenary in Lahore, Pakistan in December 2014 approved the Financial and Staff Regulations. The main objective behind the approval of this resolution and its attachments was to prepare regulations to fit APA administrative needs to better suit its activities. It was realized that the most relevant international organization to the APA is Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU) therefore, the IPU's system of scaling assessed contributions has been evaluated as a relevant model for APA.
- In December 2016, in the course of the 9th APA plenary meeting in Cambodia, , new proposals were made by different delegations on the necessity of further clarification on measures of assessed contribution, terms and modalities of contribution and studying the budgetary models of other International organizations.
- In May 2017, in Abu Dhabi, the Standing Committee after lengthy discussion on the model of payment, arrived at this conclusion that majority of the participating members are in favor of equality of payment and some in favor of GDP & IPU system of payment.
- The APA Secretariat in November 2018 at the 11th Plenary in Istanbul reported that the APA Secretary-General communicated to all APA Member Parliaments and offered them the three model of payment based on GDP, Equality and the mixture of GDP and Equality. In this meeting, the equal payment of 20000 USD per year for all members and calculate the extra budget on the base of GDP, were decided.
- In order to implement this decision, Secretary General sent a letter, to all member parliaments in December 2018 and requested them to include this amount of contribution in their respective parliament's yearly budget. In response the Secretariat received only 4 replies from all member parliaments.
- Finally, the Secretary General in his report to the Standing Committee on Budget and Planning in September 2019 in Baghdad stated that the APA Budget Estimate for the year 2019 is around 900,000 USD and even if all active member parliaments pay their contribution based on the current adopted model of payment, the Secretariat could hardly survive.

Dear Colleagues,

It is where we stand today. The fact is that after a long journey from 2008 up to 2021, we have not yet arrived to an acceptable formula for all members, in order to manage the APA budget. Thus, in positive side, thanks to the financial and logistical support to the APA Secretariat by the Islamic Parliament of Iran and generosity of the Presidents and vice presidents of the APA members by holding APA meetings in their respective countries, we succeed to move forward our organization effectively and successfully together.

In conclusion, I would like to make a very practical and feasible proposal in order to overcome the issues of the budget of the APA. As you may recall, the Executive Council on October 2019, in Rize, Turkey, established the Working Group on Statutory Documents mandated with the very important task of turning the APA into a more orderly and effective system. The WG was planned to hold its first session in Kuwait in February 2020 but it was postponed to a later

date due to the outbreak of Covid-19. Ever since, I, as Secretary General almost in all of APA meetings and in my communications with APA president and Vice presidents, raised the importance of the holding of the first WG session in person as soon as possible.

Now, I would like to propose to the participating delegations in today's meeting of the Standing Committee, to keep the momentum and delegate the authority of finding a final solution for the model of payment of the members contribution to the APA Budget to the WG on Statutory Documents. The findings of this working group will be submitted to this SC for its final approval. In my opinion, this proposal in current situation is the most practical and achievable solution to the long lasting issue of adopting a satisfactory formula of model of payment for all APA member parliaments.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.