



Second Bureau Session

Ürgüp-NEVSEHIR, Turkey
11-14 October 2021

Final Report

The Second Session of the Bureau of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) was held on October 12-13, 2021 in Ürgüp-NEVSEHIR, Turkey.

The Meeting was hosted by Grand National Assembly of Turkey (GNAT) and parliamentary delegations from following members of the Bureau participated in the Meeting:

Turkey: President (H.E. Ms. ASUMAN ERDOĞAN, head of delegation, MP.)

Bahrain: Vice-President and Chair of the Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development (H.E. Mr. A. ALSALLOOM, head of delegation, MP.)

Iran: Vice-President and Chair of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs (H.E. Mr. J. RAHIMI JAHANABADI, head of delegation, MP.)

Indonesia: Rapporteur of 12th APA Plenary (H.E. Mr. Fadli ZON, head of delegation, MP.)

Opening Session:

The following dignitaries addressed the opening session:

- Ürgüp Mayor Mr. Mehmet AKTURK
- Nevsehir Governor Ms. Inci SEZER BECEL
- APA Secretary General H.E. Dr. M. Reza MAJIDI (Attachment I)
- Questor of the GNAT Mr Mustafa AÇIKGÖZ
- Head of the APA Turkish Delegation, H.E. Ms. Asuman ERDOGAN (Attachment II)

1. Adoption of the Agenda:

The Members of the APA Bureau adopted the Draft Agenda of the Second Session of the Bureau of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly. Agenda and Program of Work are attached. (Attachment III)

2. Opening statement by Chairperson:

Ms. Asuman ERDOGAN, head of Turkish APA Group and Chairperson of the meeting presented her opening remarks.

3. Report of the Secretary General on work of the Organization:

APA Secretary General in his report to the Second Bureau raised the following important issues:

- The Successful holding of the three Standing Committee Meetings in virtual format during the year 2021.
- The importance of the Model of payment as fundamental pillars of any international organization and responses of the APA members to the three models of payment suggested by the Secretariat.
- The significant step by the APA President for holding the First Session of the Working Group on Statutory Documents.
- The announcement of the date and venue of the Executive Council in 2021 and date and venue of the Thirteenth Plenary Session by the APA President.
- Advising the Bureau to actively engage in the process of identifying and nominating future APA President and Vice-Presidents before holding of the 13th Plenary at the end of the year. (Attachment IV)

4. Consideration of Model of Payment

The Secretariat provided several info documents to the 2nd Bureau Session on this agenda item and briefed the meeting thoroughly on this topic. After an extensive exchange of views, it was decided that this issue be included in the agenda of the next APA Executive Council meeting.

5. APA Future Activities:

a) Standing Committee on Political Affairs

The Chairperson announced that Turkey, the APA President will host the meeting of the Standing Committee on Political Affairs on the sideline of the next APA Executive Council Meeting.

b) Executive Council

The Chairperson announced that APA President's initial decision is to hold the Executive Council by the end of November 2021. The final decision will be announced soon.

c) Thirteenth Plenary Session

The chairperson announced that the APA President initial plan is to hold the Thirteenth Plenary Session in the end of the November 2021. The final decision will be announced soon.

d) Working Group on Statutory Documents

Due to the importance of numerous topics under consideration by WG, the Bureau adopted the following recommendation to the WG:

- 1- Adopt its decisions by majority of vote.
- 2- To consider the basic documents in the following order: Charter- Rules of procedure- Financial Regulations

6. Future APA President and Vice-Presidents for 2022-2023

The secretariat provided the meeting with background documents in this regard and requested the Bureau to engage more actively in the process of identifying and nominating future APA President and Vice-Presidents.

After short discussions on this issue:

- A. Bahraini delegation announced its initial readiness to take over the Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development in 2022,
- B. Iranian delegation announced its initial readiness to take over the Standing Committee on Budget and Planning in 2022.

7. Adoption of the Final Report

8. Any other matter

No issue was raised.



Asian Parliamentary Assembly

Remarks by Dr. Mohammad Reza Majidi, APA Secretary General

At the Opening Session of the 2nd APA Bureau Meeting

Ürgüp-NEVSEHIR, Turkey

11-14 October 2021

Excellences:

Mr. Mehmet Akturk, Urgup Mayor,

Ms. Inci Sezer Becel, Nevsehir Governor

Mr. Mustafa Acikgoz, Questor of the GNAT

Ms. Asuman Erdogan, Head of the APA Turkish Group

Allow me to begin my remarks with expression of heartfelt thanks to the APA President, *H.E Mustafa Sentop* and his hardworking representative, *Her Excellency Ms. Asuman Erdogan*, Head of APA Turkish Group for their kind invitation to this event.

Let me also avail myself of this wonderful opportunity to extend my deep appreciation to the *Urgup Mayor Mr. Mehmet Akturk, Nevsehir Governor, Ms. Inci Sezer Becel and Quester of the GNAT* and their colleagues for excellent organization of our meeting and their warm hospitality at this beautiful and peaceful city.

Excellencies,

This is really an honor for me to join you and address some few words in my capacity as Secretary General of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA); a regional parliamentary body which came into existence over one and half decades ago at the thoughtful initiative of its founders who unreservedly made every efforts to prepare necessary grounds to nurture the Asian diplomacy. In fact, our organization encompasses an extensive category of membership from the most densely populated Continent with diversity of cultures. From this perspective and other related aspects the APA is considered as a parliamentary platform with immense potentials in various fields to be apt to give further momentum to the realization of parliamentary diplomacy.

Mid November this year marks 15th anniversary of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly. During the span of one and half decades since its birth, our Organization characterized for its diverse

cultural and religious affiliations with resourceful potentials has been successful to overcome the new emerging challenges in the course of its work to pursue the objectives of parliamentary democracy.

Since its establishment in 2006, APA has gained growing momentum to move ahead to strengthen the core essence of parliamentary diplomacy parallel to expansion of its cooperation with other regional and international parliamentary organizations. With a population of over 4 billion settled in 52 countries within this continent, Asia ranks third after North America and Europe in terms of Gross National Products. Therefore, characterized for its unique potential, APA has made unreserved contributions not only at regional but also at international level.

In fact APA owes much of its success during the past 15 years to the close cooperation existing between its presidency and the Secretariat as well as collective measures of its members since its creation. However, the eminent role of Turkish Parliament for its unwavering support of our organization during the past four years under the leadership of the incumbent president, H.E. Prof. Mustafa Sentop and two other predecessors, most particularly since the outbreak of the Covid-19 Pandemic in the past two years is praiseworthy.

In a nutshell, the focus of the APA is coordinating national parliaments' efforts to address modern challenges, including through enhancing their role in promoting peace in the Asian region. In addition, the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, as the institutional voice of the elected representatives of Asia and the embodiment of an Asian worldview strongly believes that it is in the Asian hands to shape the future of the Continent as one of the most resourceful regions of the world with wonderful capacities, opportunities and bedrocks for desirable cooperation in various domains in order to give parliamentary diplomacy its real meaning in Asia.

In light of the foregoing, I believe that in the course of its internationalization of parliamentary mandate and entrenchment of international relations in legislative functions, APA has steadily played its part to pave the grounds for exerting best parliamentary practices and to uphold parliamentary diplomacy as an instrument to promote its standing.

I conclude here by saying that people of Asia under the umbrella of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly have the opportunity to come up with a voice; a clear, strong and legitimate voice to speak on matters which concern us all to work for peace and stability in the region, social cohesion and economic development, environmental protection and poverty eradication and to fight against terrorism in the world.

Thank you for your attention



TÜRKİYE BÜYÜK MİLLET MECLİSİ BAŞKANLIĞI
Dış İlişkiler ve Protokol Başkanlığı

***REMARKS BY MS ASUMAN ERDOĞAN, HEAD OF THE APA TURKISH
GROUP AT THE OPENING SESSION OF THE 2nd APA BUREAU MEETING and
WORKING GROUP ON STATUTORY DOCUMENTS***

*Ms Asuman ERDOĞAN
12 October 2021 Time:09:30*

Distinguished Mayor,

Distinguished Governor

Esteemed Member of Parliament for Nevşehir

Distinguished Head of Delegations,

Distinguished Members and Representatives of Member Parliaments,

Distinguished Secretary General of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Distinguished Guests,

It is my distinct pleasure to host you all here today for the Second Bureau Meeting of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly. Welcome to Turkey and welcome to Ürgüp, where history meets the natural beauty in this very special corner of the world. We have specially chosen this place for our meeting. Our aim is to have a fruitful and result-oriented meeting in the relaxed and cozy atmosphere of this beautiful town. Hope you will have wonderful days ahead.

Distinguished members,

APA is a very important platform for parliamentary diplomacy. It is one of the most promising instruments of soft power. As being the representatives of our nations, we have

an actual responsibility to use parliamentary diplomacy effectively. In today's ever-changing ecosystem of international relations, parliamentary diplomacy has been gaining significance to address the regional challenges as well as to explore the potential areas of cooperation. In the last two years, the most difficult challenge we have been facing is, of course, Covid-19 pandemic. With the new variant viruses emerging across the globe, the pandemic still continues to affect the world heavily. Beyond its detrimental effects on human lives, it has also grave political, economic, and social impacts. Effective meaningful international cooperation and solidarity must be at the forefront of our efforts against the virus. Since the outbreak of the pandemic, Turkey is committed to international cooperation and solidarity in the fight against the Covid-19.

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 understanding, we have sent medical equipment and other types of critical material to 159 countries and 12 international organizations, and will continue to do so.

Dear colleagues,

Turkey pays special importance on deepening inter-parliamentary cooperation in each and every possible area. As a clear demonstration of this understanding, Grand National Assembly of Turkey reassumed the Presidency of APA for the 2020-2021 term.

I think, we, as members of the Bureau of the Assembly, will take extremely important decisions here today and they will affect all members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly. Considering this responsibility, we have to achieve concrete and applicable results in the end of this meeting. I also hope that we can determine a suitable payment model for all so that the Assembly could work more efficiently and besides it will be good motivation for the Secretariat.

During the First APA Executive Council Meeting in Rize in 2019, we established the Working Group on Statutory Documents initiated by the Russian Federation and supported by all member parliaments. The first working group on statutory documents was going to be held in Kuwait in February 2020, however it was cancelled.

The purpose of the Working Group which is going to be held just after this meeting is to update the Statutory Documents of APA. I am confident that we will spare no effort to achieving our common goals.

We are also planning to organize Thirteenth Plenary before the end of the year in Antalya.

I, once again, would like to extend my best regards and wish a successful meeting.

Thank you.

Asian Parliamentary Assembly

Second Bureau Session

Ürgüp-NEVŞEHİR, Turkey
11-14 October 2021

Draft Agenda



(9/20/2021 by APA Secretariat)

1. Adoption of Agenda
2. Opening remarks by the Chairperson
3. Secretary General Report on the work of the Organization
4. Consideration of Model of Payment
5. APA Future Activities:
 - a) Standing Committee on Political Affairs
 - b) Executive Council
 - c) Thirteen Plenary Session
 - d) Working Group on Statutory Documents
6. Future APA President and Vice-Presidents for 2022-2023
7. Adoption of the Final Report
8. Any other matter



ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

THE SECOND BUREAU MEETING AND WORKING GROUP ON STATUTORY DOCUMENTS

DRAFT PROGRAM

11-14 October 2021

Perissia Hotel


Ürgüp-NEVŞEHİR
TURKEY

Monday, 11 October 2021 Arrival of the Delegates	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Delegates arrive at Cappadocia Airport – Ürgüp - NEVŞEHİR ○ Transfer from Airport to Perissia Hotel ○ Delegates proceed to check in at Perissia Hotel
17.00-17.30	Upon arrival at the Hotel, all delegates and attendees will take COVID-19 PCR test.
19.00	Dinner <i>Venue:</i> Dining Hall
Tuesday, 12 October 2021	
08.00-09.00	Breakfast <i>Venue:</i> Dining Hall
09.15	<p>Opening Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -National Anthem -Address of Mr. Mehmet Aktürk, Mayor of Ürgüp -Address of Ms. İnci Sezer Becel, Governor of Nevşehir -Address of Dr. M. Reza Majidi, Secretary General of the APA -Address of Mr Mustafa Açıkgöz, Questor of the GNAT -Address of H.E. Ms Asuman Erdoğan, Head of the APA Turkish Delegation
	<p>APA SECOND BUREAU MEETING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Adoption of the Agenda – Opening Remarks by the Chairperson – Secretary General’s Report on the Work of the Organization – Consideration of Model of Payment

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – APA Future Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Standing Committee on Political Affairs ○ Working Group on Statutory Documents ○ Executive Council ○ Thirteenth Plenary Session – APA President and Vice-Presidents for 2022-2023 – Adoption of the Final Report – Any other Matters.
10.45-11.00	<p>Coffee Break</p> <p><i>Venue:</i> Foyer</p>
11.00-13.00	<p style="text-align: center;">APA SECOND BUREAU MEETING (CONTINUING)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Consideration of Model of Payment – APA Future Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Standing Committee on Political Affairs ○ Working Group on Statutory Documents ○ Executive Council ○ Thirteenth Plenary Session – APA President and Vice-Presidents for 2022-2023 – Adoption of the Final Report – Any other Matters.
13.00-14.00	<p>Lunch</p> <p><i>Venue:</i> Dining Hall</p>

14.15-16.00	<p>APA WORKING GROUP ON STATUTORY DOCUMENTS MEETING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Adoption of the Agenda – Remarks by Chairperson of the meeting – Remarks by APA Secretary General – Procedure for Consideration and Adoption of Documents and Amendments – Consideration and Adoption of Amendments to Statutory Documents
16.00-16.15	<p>Coffee Break</p> <p><i>Venue:</i> Foyer</p>
16.15-18.30	<p>APA WORKING GROUP ON STATUTORY DOCUMENTS (CONTINUING)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Consideration and Adoption of Amendments to Statutory Documents
19.00	Departure from the hotel to Zeferan Cappadocia Restaurant
19.30	<p>Official Dinner Hosted by Ms Asuman ERDOĞAN, Head of Turkish APA Delegation</p> <p><i>Venue:</i> Zeferan Cappadocia Restaurant</p> <p>Address: Yenimahalle AJWA Cappadocia,Ürgüp Cd. No:11 50402 Mustafapaşa/Ürgüp/Nevşehir Tel : (0384) 352 12 22</p> <p>Dress Code: Smart Casual</p>
Wednesday, 13 October 2021	
08.00-09.00	<p>Breakfast</p> <p><i>Venue:</i> Dining Hall</p>
09.15-10.45	<p>APA WORKING GROUP ON STATUTORY DOCUMENTS (CONTINUING)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Consideration and Adoption of Amendments to Statutory Documents
10.45-11.00	<p>Coffee Break</p> <p><i>Venue:</i> Foyer</p>

11.00-13.00	APA WORKING GROUP ON STATUTORY DOCUMENTS (CONTINUING) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Consideration and Adoption of Amendments to Statutory Documents
13.00-14.00	Lunch <i>Venue:</i> Dining Hall
14.00-16.00	APA WORKING GROUP ON STATUTORY DOCUMENTS (CONTINUING) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Consideration and Adoption of Amendments to Statutory Documents
16.00-16.15	Coffee Break <i>Venue:</i> Foyer
16.15-18.00	APA WORKING GROUP ON STATUTORY DOCUMENTS (CONTINUING) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Consideration and Adoption of Amendments to Statutory Documents – Date and Venue of the next meeting – Adoption of the Final Report – Any Other Matters.
18.30	All delegates and attendees will take COVID-19 PCR test
19.00	Departure from the hotel to Topuzlu Han Restaurant
19.30	Official Dinner Hosted by Ms İnci Sezer BECEL , Governor of Nevşehir <i>Venue:</i> TOPUZLU HAN RESTORAN <i>Address:</i> Emek Mahallesi Naryolu Sokak No:76 Tel: 0 384 214 37 30 Dress Code: Smart Casual
Thursday, 14 October 2021 Departure of the Delegates	
08.00-09.00	Breakfast <i>Venue:</i> Dining Hall
09.15	Departure from the Hotel
.....	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Zelve Açık Hava Müzesi (Zelve Open air Museum)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Paşabağları Museum and Ruins – Avanos Pottery
12.00	Back to the Hotel
<div>  Departure of Delegates </div>	
End of the Program	

Attachment IV



Asian Parliamentary Assembly

Second Bureau Session

Ürgüp-NEVSEHIR, Turkey

11-14 October 2021

Report of the Secretary General

H.E. Mrs. Asuman ERDOĞAN,
Representative of the APA President and Chairperson of the Bureau,
Honorable Vice-Presidents and Rapporteur,
Distinguished Colleagues,

Allow me to begin my report with expression of a few words of thanks on this great occasion to the Grand National Assembly of Turkey and President of APA and to your Excellency Madam Chairperson, for accepting to generously host the Second Bureau meeting. No doubt, your unreserved supports has been always a source of hope and inspiration for advancement of the mission mandated to me in my capacity as APA Secretary General and my colleagues at the APA Secretariat.

I would also like to thank and appreciate APA Vice-Presidents and the Rapporteur for their very valuable participation in this meeting.

Madam Chairperson
Dear Colleagues

As you are well aware we held the First Session of the APA Bureau in mid December 2020 in Ankara. At that meeting we succeed to adopt a “Special Rules of Procedure to Regulate the Conduct of APA Virtual Sessions” and to nominate and re-confirm the APA Vice Presidents and the Rapporteur for the year 2021. Time-line of the meeting of the Standing Committees in year 2021 was also considered at that meeting. Fortunately, during the year 2021 with the commendable commitments of the APA Vice -Presidents, we succeeded to hold in virtual format the following Standing Committee Meetings:

1. Standing committees on Economic and Sustainable Developments, chaired by Bahrain in May 20,
2. Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs chaired by Iran in 14 July.
3. Standing Committee on Budget and Planning chaired by Russia in 4 August.

At our meeting today, we have very important items in our Agenda for consideration and adoption:

1.APA Model of payment

As you are well aware, each member of any international organization or institution shall make an annual contribution to the expenses of the organization in accordance with the scale approved by the relevant body of the concerned organization. This issue is one of the fundamental pillars of any international organization and it is explicitly mentioned in the Charter and Statute of all international institutions. It is regrettable to note that on the eve of the 15th anniversary of our Organization, APA member parliaments have not yet arrived to any conclusion on this essential issue. I sincerely hope pursuant to my letter of 16 August 2021 to the all APA members and the report of the Secretariat on the responses of the Members on three models of payment suggested by the Secretariat, you succeed to make a decision on this important issue today.

2.Meeting of the Standing Committee on Political Affairs

You may recall that in the course of the virtual Meeting of the APA President and Vice Presidents on April 6, 2021, the Iraqi delegation as a Vice- President and the Chair of the Standing Committee on Political Affairs announced that they are unable to host the meeting of the Committee due to their upcoming parliamentary election. As we are very close to the end of the year and we have to hold this meeting in order to have the Executive Council and the 13thPlenary, it is expected that this meeting will decide on this issue. Traditionally, in such circumstances, the APA President hosts such meeting on the sideline of the Executive Council.

3. Working Group on Statutory Documents

This Working Group was established by the Executive Council in Rize, Turkey in October2019.The purpose of this Working Group is to update the APA Statutory Documents in order to turn its work into a more orderly and effective system. Bahrain, Cambodia, Kuwait, Iran, Iraq, Palestine Russia and Turkey are the 8 members of this WG and Kuwait was nominated to chair and host the first meeting. The meeting was planned for 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, Vice presidents and members of the WG, raised the importance of holding the first WG session in person as soon as possible. I am very pleased that today, the APA President is going to hold the First Session of the WG. For conducting of the first session of the WG,I have a few remarks that I will raise at the beginning of the session of the WG.

4. Executive Council& Plenary Sessions:

As you recall, the 12th Plenary was the last APA face to face meeting which took place on 13-18 December 2019, in Antalya, Turkey. Unfortunately, since then the world was encountered with an unexpected deadly health crisis which drastically impacted our lifestyle in every aspect leading us to develop new strategies to adapt our daily activities. Under such circumstances, we were not able to hold any regular meeting in year 2020. But in 2021, pursuant to the First meeting of the Bureau in Ankara, we succeeded to hold 3 virtual Standing Committee meetings. Therefore, It is expected that the APA 12thPlenary President announce the date and venue of the First Meeting of the Executive Council in 2021 and date and venue of the Thirteen Plenary Session.

5. Nomination of the APA President and Vice-Presidents for 2022-2023:

As regards the future APA President and Vice-Presidents, I would like to advise the Bureau to actively engage in the process of identifying and nominating future APA President and Vice-Presidents before holding of the 13th Plenary at the end of the year. In order to facilitate this process and for your more information, Secretariat prepared a background paper in this regard.

Madam Chairperson

Dear Colleagues

In conclusion, I would like to once again appreciate and underline the very important role played by the Bureau members of the APA 12thPlenary during the past two years. Special thanks and appreciation also goes to the Grand National Assembly of Turkey for their excellent hospitality and leadership of the two Bureau meetings.

Thank very much for your attention