



Final Report

First Executive Council Meeting

25-28 October 2019
Rize, Republic of Turkey

EC1/Rep/2019/06
30 October 2019

The First Executive Council meeting of Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) was held on 25-28 October 2019 in Rize, Republic of Turkey. Parliamentary delegations from following member countries participated in the meeting:

Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Pakistan, Palestine, Russia and Turkey. Shura Council of Qatar and National Parliament of Timor-Leste as Observers. ([Attachment I](#))

Inaugural Ceremony:

The following dignitaries presented their statements and remarks at the opening session:

H.E. Mr Rahmi METIN, Mayor of Rize

H.E. Dr Mohammad Reza MAJIDI, APA Secretary General ([Attachment II](#))

H.E. Mrs. Asuman ERDOGAN, Head of Turkish Delegation ([Attachment III](#))

H.E. Mr Kemal CEBER, Governor of Rize.

The chairperson informed the meeting of the request for full membership of Qatar and Timor-Leste which were adopted by acclamation. H.E. Ahmed Bin Abdullah AL MAHMOUD, Speaker of QATAR Shura Council addressed the Executive Council and presented his statement appreciating the support of member parliaments for full membership of Qatar. ([Attachment IV](#))

Timor-Leste representative Mrs. Maria Terezinha da Silva VIEGAS also took the floor and appreciated the support of APA member parliaments for the full membership of her National Parliament.

1. Adoption of the Agenda:

Delegations expressed their views on the necessity of changing the order of Agenda items to address the important issues as priority. Thus, this report is prepared according to the order of items discussed during the meeting.

The Member Parliaments adopted the Draft Agenda with its new order. Agenda and Program of Work are attached. ([Attachment V](#))

2. Election of the Bureau:

The following members of the Bureau were elected by acclamation:

Chairperson: H.E. Mrs Asuman ERDOGAN, Head of the Turkish APA Delegation.

Vice Chairperson: H.E. Mr. Mohammad Nadir Nil BALOOCH, Head of Delegation of Afghanistan

Rapporteur: H.E. Mr. Nayef AL-HADID, Head of Delegation of Jordan.

3. Nomination of the APA President and Vice Presidents for 2020-21:

The official letter signed by Speaker of Iraqi Council of Representatives nominating Iraq to become APA President for period of 2020-21 was circulated to all member parliaments by Secretariat prior to the Executive Council meeting.

An extensive exchange of views took place on this topic. Some delegations were in favour of Presidency of Iraq as a sole candidate and principle of rotation, whereas others stressed that due to the fact that APA faces many challenges in coming years, we should request Turkey, the current President, to continue its Presidency.

The chair concluded that since more time is needed to come to a consensus on this issue, Turkey accepts the request to host the 12th APA Plenary meeting in the month of December 2019.

On the issue of Vice-Presidents for 2020-21, the member of Council of Representatives of the Kingdom of Bahrain, H.E. Ahmed Sabah Salman Alsallom announced the willingness of his parliament to host the next Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Developments as Vice-President of APA. The meeting welcomed this offer and called on all member parliaments to come forward and chair other Standing Committees.

4. Nomination of APA President for 2022-23:

The chair informed the meeting that this item will be on the Agenda of the 12th Plenary and will be discussed there.

5. Considerations of Establishing Cooperation with Other Organizations:

On This Agenda item the membership of APA to the Group of Friends of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UN AOC) was adopted. The Secretariat was requested to follow up the procedure for membership.

6. The Establishment of Working Group on Statutory Documents (proposed by Russia):

The delegation of Russian Federation through a letter addressed to the APA President had requested the inclusion of the above Agenda item. The purpose of this Working Group is to update the Statutory Documents of APA in order to turn its work into a more orderly and effective system. Member Parliaments debated on the essence of this Working Group and agreed on the following criteria:

- Kuwait as chairman will host the first meeting in January 2020
- Members: Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Russia, Cambodia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Palestine
- Formal nature and independent of other Standing Committees
- Mandated by Executive Council
- Legal, Technical and non-political nature
- Two meetings in one year
- Secretariat to inform those not represented in First Ex-Council meeting

- Quorum is reached with 7 countries
- 7 Plus: Other interested countries may attend the WG
- Countries should submit their written amendments in advance
- Members should consult experts in drafting legal issues
- APA Secretariat will prepare and submit the report to Executive Council

The agenda item concerning amendments to APA Basic Documents proposed by Russian Federation will be discussed at this Working Group.

7. Report of Secretary-General:

In this report the following topics were covered:

- The works of the APA Standing Committees and Working Groups under the leadership of APA President and Vice Presidents in 2019.
- The request of parliaments of Qatar and Timor-Leste for APA membership.
- The establishment of cooperation with United Nations Alliance of Civilizations.
- Russian Federation amendments to APA Basic Documents
- Nomination of APA President and Vice Presidents for 2020-21.
- On the main activities of the Permanent Secretariat during the Presidency of Turkey, SG appealed to the delegations to allocate budget before adopting any resolution with financial implication. ([Attachment VI](#))

8. Consideration and discussion on Draft Resolutions:

- **Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs**

The chairperson opened this agenda item by introducing draft resolutions adopted by Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs. She mentioned that out of 13 resolutions in this committee there were 3 new resolutions tabled by Thailand (Quality Child and Aging Society) and Kuwait (Human Development). These resolutions will be addressed during the next Standing Committee meeting.

On Resolution concerning “Rights of Migrant Workers ” several delegations expressed their strong position against the Form and Content of this resolution and requested its deletion from list of resolutions of this Standing Committee due to its adverse effects on security of some states. Others argued that we might change the title of this resolution to “Migrant/Foreign or Expatriate Workers”. After a substantive exchange of views on the topic of resolution and its different

terminologies, the meeting decided to defer consideration of the said resolution to the next Standing Committee.

- **Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development:**

The chairperson informed the meeting about the seven draft resolutions in this committee and added that the Draft Resolution on Asian Integrated Energy Market was reproduced by Kuwait delegation as a merged document for future considerations in this Standing Committee.

She also stated that the Draft Resolution on Water and Sanitation in Asia for All is deferred to the next Standing Committee.

- **Standing Committee on political Affairs:**

There are nine resolutions on the agenda of this Committee. Resolution on Towards an Asian Parliament is deferred to the next Standing Committee for further consideration.

Iran has tabled a new resolution on Enhancing Cooperation among the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly to Protect and Promote Multilateralism.

On resolution concerning Unwavering Support for Palestinian People, delegation of Palestine informed the meeting of the latest atrocities of Israel in the occupied territories and requested the meeting to incorporate its amendments to the draft resolution due to the urgency of the matter. On this exceptional case, the meeting decided to adopt the resolution with the new changes and expressed full support for the cause of Palestinian people.

- **Standing Committee on Budget and Planning:**

The Chairperson referred to the successful meeting of this Standing Committee in Baghdad and stated that the only resolution on the Agenda of this Committee which is titled “Resolution on Planning APA Budget” was adopted by consensus.

(Before addressing the next Agenda Item, delegation of Pakistan requested for the floor and presented a statement on Kashmir Black Day. ([Attachment VII](#)).

9. Adoption of the Final Report:

The present report was adopted by the member parliaments attending the First Executive Council meeting in Rize, Turkey on 27th October 2019.

10. Any other matter:

Member Parliaments attending the First Executive Council meeting expressed their sincere appreciation to all Government, Parliament and local officials for their untiring efforts in hosting the meeting in Rize, Turkey.