



Working Group on Statutory Documents (Second Session)

Tehran, Iran
9-12 July 2023

Final Report

The Second Session of the Working Group on Statutory Document of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) was held on 11 July 2023 in Teheran, Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Meeting was hosted and chaired by Islamic Parliament of Iran and parliamentary delegations from Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Palestine, Russia and Turkiye participated in the Meeting as members of the Working Group and delegations from Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, China, Cyprus, India, Indonesia, Lebanon, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, UAE and Vietnam participated at this meeting in their capacity of “interested countries”. ([Attachment I](#))

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Members of the APA Working Group on Statutory Documents adopted the Draft Agenda of its Second Session. The Agenda of the Working Group is attached. ([Attachment II](#))

2. Remarks by Chairperson

H.E. Dr. ALIZADEH, Head of APA Parliamentary Group of Iran presented his opening remarks.

3. Remarks by APA Secretary General on APA Revitalization

SG presented his remarks “ on How APA can be made More Effective? by Introducing Parliamentary Diplomacy as a Complimentary Diplomacy.” He emphasized :

-APA is the Unique institutional voice of the parliaments in Asia and intended to bring the direction of parliaments across the continent more closer, while being fully aware that this could be a tough task based on the extremely diverse cultures and differing outlooks in this world’s largest continent.

- In spite of the differences in the systems of governments and the status of parliaments in each country, there are nonetheless reliable common denominators among Asian countries that witness to the existence of a solid base for cooperation.

-The track record of the APA programs during the past 16 years indicate that we have still a long way ahead. International developments intertwined with dynamic organization activities leave us no choice but to face the new challenges and try to move more effectively forward.

-This vision pursued by APA member parliaments from both *structural and substantive* angles during the recent years.

-The main idea behind the establishment of the Working Group on Statutory Documents in October 2019 in Rize, Turkiye was an initial step to make a thorough survey of the current structure of the APA in order to work out an inclusive plan aimed at encouraging further contribution of all its members to give an impetus to parliamentary cooperation.

-This strategy was touched on comprehensively by the APA Term President during the 13th APA Plenary in January 2023 in Antalya, Turkiye and APA member Parliaments were called on to take due note of it.

-In this vein, the APA activities, and the role that the member parliaments can play as well as the heavy burden that is shouldered by the APA Secretariat, need to be noted..

-To do this, APA must provide a blueprint/road map for the enhancement of its functional capacity with the aim of covering the objectives enshrined in its Charter.

-SG concluded that the Secretariat in order to fulfil its mandate entrusted to it, is going to report the sum up of this meeting to the Executive council in order to peruse the matter in future and obtains guide lines. ([Attachment III](#))

4. General Debates on the Institutional Steps for APA Effectiveness

The following delegations made remarks under this Agenda item:

Indonesia, Turkiye, UAE, Pakistan, Syria, China, India, Iraq, Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Bahrain, Palestine.

The necessity of addressing the revitalization and capacity building issues of APA were emphasized by: Bangladesh, Indonesia, Turkiye, Pakistan, China and India.

Delegations of UAE, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Lebanon continued addressing the topics under consideration of the morning session. They stressed that debating on Structural as well as Revitalization issues of APA would leave us nowhere. Bahrain questioned the reason why the Agenda of the meeting had changed without prior notice and did not address the “revisiting of the Statutory Documents” in its second session of this Working Group. APA Secretary General responded that during past two months we have distributed several reports and background briefing papers to all member parliaments stressing the importance of addressing “ Institutional Steps for APA Effectiveness” during the second session of this Working Group. The Secretariat received no response whatsoever. ([Attachment IV](#))

The Chair concluded that the APA Secretariat is tasked to prepare a report on the variety of views expressed in this meeting and circulate it to all member parliaments in due time in order to reach an effective approach of addressing the APA issues.

5. Adoption of the Final Report

The Chairman stated that the final report of the meeting will be prepared and sent to all participants by APA Secretariat in few days ahead.

6. Any other mater

- The delegation of Azerbaijan invited all delegations to participate at the upcoming Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs in Baku in September.
- The SG reminded delegation that the meeting of the Standing Committee on Political Affairs will be held in Bagdad, Iraq in October and the First Executive Council Meeting will be held in Turkiye at the end of the year 2023.

Asian Parliamentary Assembly

Standing Committee on Budget and Planning / Working Group on Statutory Documents



Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
9 - 12 July 2023

List of Participants

Participating members:

Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, China, Cyprus, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Russia, Syria, Turkiye, UAE, Vietnam, Arab Parliament, APA Secretariat.

No	Country	First Name	Last Name	Position	Head of Delegation
1	Azerbaijan	Mr. Ilham	Mammadov	Member of the delegation	✓
2	Azerbaijan	Mr. Mir Kamal	Ali-Zada	Staff of the delegation	
3	Bahrain	Mr. Ahmed	alsaloom	Member of Parliament	✓
4	Bahrain	Dr. Abdulaziz	Abul	Member of Parliament	
5	Bahrain	Ms. Maryam	Alsaegh	Member of Parliament	
6	Bahrain	Ms. Sara	Jawzi	Acting head of secretary general affairs	
7	Bahrain	Mr. Mohamed	Bin Daina	senior Parliamentary relations development specialist	
8	Bangladesh	Mr. A S M	Feroz	Hon'ble Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Public Undertakings, MP	✓
9	Bangladesh	Mr. Md Rustum Ali	Faraji	Hon'ble Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Public Accounts, MP	
10	Bangladesh	Mr. Md Sabbir	Mahmud	Senior Assistant Secretary	
11	China	Mr. Fuli	Chen	Member of the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee of the National People's Congress of China	✓
12	China	Ms. Dan	Wu	Staff of the Foreign Affairs Bureau of the General Office of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of China	

13	China	Ms. Mengyuan	Qi	Staff of the Foreign Affairs Bureau of the General Office of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of China	
14	China	Ms. QINGWEI	HAO	Attache of the Embassy of China in the Islamic Republic of Iran	
15	Cyprus	Mr. NICOLAOS	TORNARITIS	Member of Parliament and Head of the Delegation	✓
16	Cyprus	Mr. GEORGE	LOUCAIDES	Member of Parliament	
17	Cyprus	Ms. Avgousta	CHRISTOU	Secretary to Delegation	
18	India	Mr. Jagdambika	Pal	Member of Parliament, Head of Delegation	✓
19	India	Mrs. Snehlata Pal	Pal	Spouse of Head of the Delegation	
20	India	Mr. YOGENDRA	SINGH	DEPUTY SECRETARY (Accompanying Officer)	
21	Indonesia	Dr.Fadli	Zon	Chair of Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation	✓
22	Indonesia	Mr. Putu Supadma	Rudana	Vice Chair of Committee for Inter Parliamentary Cooperation	Deputy Head of Delegation
23	Indonesia	Mr. Hugua	Hugua	Member of Committee of Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation	
24	Indonesia	Mr. Fadhlullah	Fadhlullah	Member of Committee of Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation	
25	Indonesia	Dr. Jazuli	Juwaini	Member of Committee of Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation	
26	Indonesia	Mr. Rojih	Rojih	Member of Committee of Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation	
27	Indonesia	Mr. Insan	Abdirrohman	Secretary to Delegation	
28	Indonesia	Mr. Sigit	Fitriyanto	Assistant Secretary to Delegation	
29	Indonesia	Mr. Isep Parid	Yahya	Advisor	
30	Indonesia	Mr. Nadhen	Ivan	Media	
31	Indonesia	Mr. Yanuar Arif	Wibowo	Expert Staff of Hon. Mr. Jazuli	
32	Indonesia	Mrs. Khodijah	Abdulloh Kafabih	Spouse of Hon. Mr. Rojih	
33	Indonesia	Mr. Ronny Prasetyo	Yuliantro	Indonesian Ambassador to Tehran	Indonesian Embassy
34	Indonesia	Ms. Joevi	Roedyati		Indonesian Embassy

35	Indonesia	Ms. Agnes	Okvanni		Indonesian Embassy
36	Indonesia	Mr. Audi	Muhammad		Indonesian Embassy
37	Iran	Mr. Ali	Alizadeh	Member of Parliament, Chairperson of the APA Group and HEAD OF DELEGATION, Islamic Parliament of Iran	✓
38	Iran	Ms. Masumeh	Pashaei Bahram	Member of Parliament	
39	Iran	Mr. Mohammad Mehdi	Zahedi	Member of Parliament	
40	Iran	Mr. Gholamreza	Nouri Ghezjeljeh	Member of Parliament	
41	Iran	Mr. Jalil	Rahimi Jahanabadi	Member of Parliament	
42	Iraq	Mr. Haider M. Habeeb Majeed	Al-Selami	MP	✓
43	Iraq	Mr. Muthanna Ameen Nader	Nader	MP	
44	Iraq	Mr. KAREEM	GAHOOSH	MP	
45	Iraq	Mr. Adnan Abdulhussein Salman	Omairi	Staff	
46	Kuwait	Mr. HAMAD	ALMATAR	HEAD of DELEGATION	✓
47	Kuwait	Mr. ABDULAZIZ	NASRALLAH	Senior specialist	
48	Kuwait	Mr. SAUD	ALRAQAM	Political Science professional	
49	Lebanon	قاسم	هاشم	نائب لبناني	✓
50	Lebanon	عدنان	ضاهر	أمين عام مجلس النواب اللبناني	
51	Pakistan	Mr. Saifullah	Abro	Member Senate of Pakistan	✓
52	Pakistan	Mr. Syed Hasnain	Haider		
53	Palestine	Mr. Ali	Faysal	Deputy Speaker of the Palestinian National Council	✓
54	Palestine	Ms. Salam	Alzawawi	Ambassador of the State of Palestine in Tehran	
55	Palestine	Mr. Mohammed	Jhair	First Counsellor, Embassy of the State of Palestine, Tehran	
56	Qatar	HE Mr. Mohd bin Fahad	Al-Mesallam	Member of Parliament	✓
57	Qatar	HE Mr. Ahmad bin Hitmi	AL-Hitmi	Member of Parliament	
58	Qatar	Mr. AHMAD	ALNOUBI	Senior International Affairs Specialist	
59	Saudi Arabia	Mr. Hani	Khashoggi	Member of Parliament	✓
60	Saudi Arabia	Mr. Fares	Alosaimi	Member of Parliament	
61	Saudi Arabia	Mr. Fahad	Aldughaiter	Parliamentary Advisor	
62	Saudi Arabia	Mr. Abdulilah	Almuhanna	Protocol Officer	
63	Russia	Mr. PETR	TOLSTOY	Member of Parliament	✓

64	Russia	Mr. LEONID	SLUTSKIY	Member of Parliament	
65	Russia	Mr. ALEKSANDR	REMEZKOV	Member of Parliament	
66	Russia	Mr. ILYA	GAMBASHIDZE	STAFF	
67	Russia	Mr. AZER	NAJAFOV	INTERPRETER	
68	Russia	Mr. ELNUR	HUSEYNOV	INTERPRETER	
69	Syria	Mr. MOHAMAD	AL ASAAD	Member of Parliament	✓
70	Syria	Mr. MHD. AMIN	ALRAJA	Member of Parliament	
71	Syria	Mr. MUSTAFA	ALMAROUF	Member of Parliament	
72	Syria	Mr. MHD. GHIATH	JAWISH	STAFF	
73	Turkiye	Mr. Abdulkadir Emin	ÖNEN	HEAD OF THE DELEGATION, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT	✓
74	Turkiye	Mr. Ömer	ÖZMEN	MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT	
75	Turkiye	Mr. Vecdi	GÜNDOĞDU	MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT	
76	Turkiye	Mr. Mücahit	ARSLAN	Vice-Director of the External Relations and Protocol Department	
77	Turkiye	Mr. Rezak	TAVLI	Expert External Relations and Protocol Department	
78	Turkiye	Mr. Murat	HASTÜRK	Senior Officer External Relations and Protocol Department	
79	UAE	H.E. DR. NEDAL	ALTENEJI	Member of Parliament	✓
80	UAE	Ms. HAMDA	ALBLOOSHI	STAFF	
81	Vietnam	TUAN	LE ANH		✓
82	Vietnam	TOAN	NGUYEN HUU		
83	Vietnam	HAI YEN	NGUYEN THI		
84	Arab Parliament	Mr. Adel	Alasoomi	President of the Arab Parliament	✓
85	Arab Parliament	Mr. Mohamed	Alnamer		
86	APA Secretariat	Mr. Mohammad Reza	MAJIDI	APA Secretary General	✓
87	APA Secretariat	Mr. Kia	TABATABAEE	Deputy Secretary General of APA	
88	APA Secretariat	Mr. Mehdi	GHASHGHAVI	Executive Deputy of Secretariat	
89	APA Secretariat	Mr. Mehdi	MOLLAHOSSEINI	APA Senior Expert	
90	APA Secretariat	Mr. Javad	HASHEMI	APA Director of International Affairs	
91	APA Secretariat	Mr. Saeed	SOHRABINIA	APA Director of Information Technology	

Asian Parliamentary Assembly

**APA Working Group on
Statutory Document**

(Second Session)

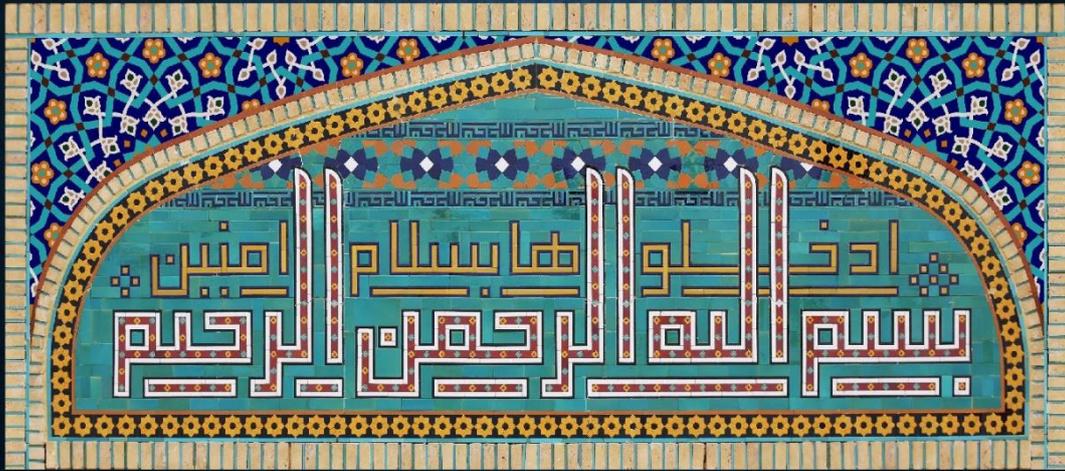


Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
9 - 12 July 2023

Draft Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Remarks by Chairperson
3. Remarks by APA Secretary General on APA Revitalization
4. General Debates on the Institutional Steps for APA Effectiveness
5. Adoption of the Final Report
6. Any other Matters.

Attachment III



APA

How to be More Effective ?

Introduction: Parliamentary Diplomacy As Complementary Diplomacy

- Parliamentary Diplomacy and its Importance in today's world,
- The role of regional and international parliamentary organizations in international cooperation, settlement of disputes, maintenance of international peace and security and stability,
- Parliamentary Diplomacy as a complement to the traditional diplomacy in the realization of the objectives and securing national interest of countries.

From AAPP to APA(1999-2023) Asian Integration through Multilateral Parliamentary mechanisms/approaches

APA as the largest Parliamentary organization in Asia, embracing more than 40 Asian Parliaments as its permanent members, the APA is in a position to assume a more vivid stance in influencing the course of events in the region in line with its goals and aspirations which include peace, prosperity and development for all people and further integration in Asia.

**Two Decades
of
Experiences:**

Reassessment of past endeavors/activities

For

Restructuring and Revitalization of the APA

Establishment of the Working Group on Statutory Documents

The main idea behind establishment of the Working Group on Statutory Documents was an initial step to make a thorough survey of the current structure of the APA in order to work out an inclusive plan aimed at encouraging further contribution of all its members to give an impetus to parliamentary cooperation within the framework of a strong regional organization that seeks to give Asian Cooperation its real meaning.

The Honorable Speaker of the GNAT, as the APA Term President, introduced certain viewpoints for activation of the APA which briefly read as follows:

- Taking all necessary institutional steps for the APA to become more effective,
- The payment of contributions and easing the economic burden on host countries related to the APA activities is one of the most important issues,
- Consultations and preparatory work should be resumed by establishing working groups with experts from the member countries,
- Due to the breadth of the geography, dividing these working groups into regions and discussing the results in a joint workshop after such regional group has completed its work can be considered,

The Honorable Speaker of the GNAT, as the APA Term President, introduced certain viewpoints for activation of the APA which briefly read as follows:

- Presentation of an unbiased report by experts on how an international organization can be effective and how it can be harmonized with the reality of the APA rather than the priorities of the member states,
- Following technical consultations, the heads of our delegations first develop the political dimension. Then we hold final consultations at an APA Spears of Parliament's summit and we can implement the necessary decisions at the nearest plenary session,
- As the representatives of the peoples of the Asian countries we should not delay any longer in taking these steps

**Academic Efforts
Expertise Dialogues
&
Experimental Viewpoints**

**How do you evaluate the role of
parliamentary diplomacy in the current
international relations?**

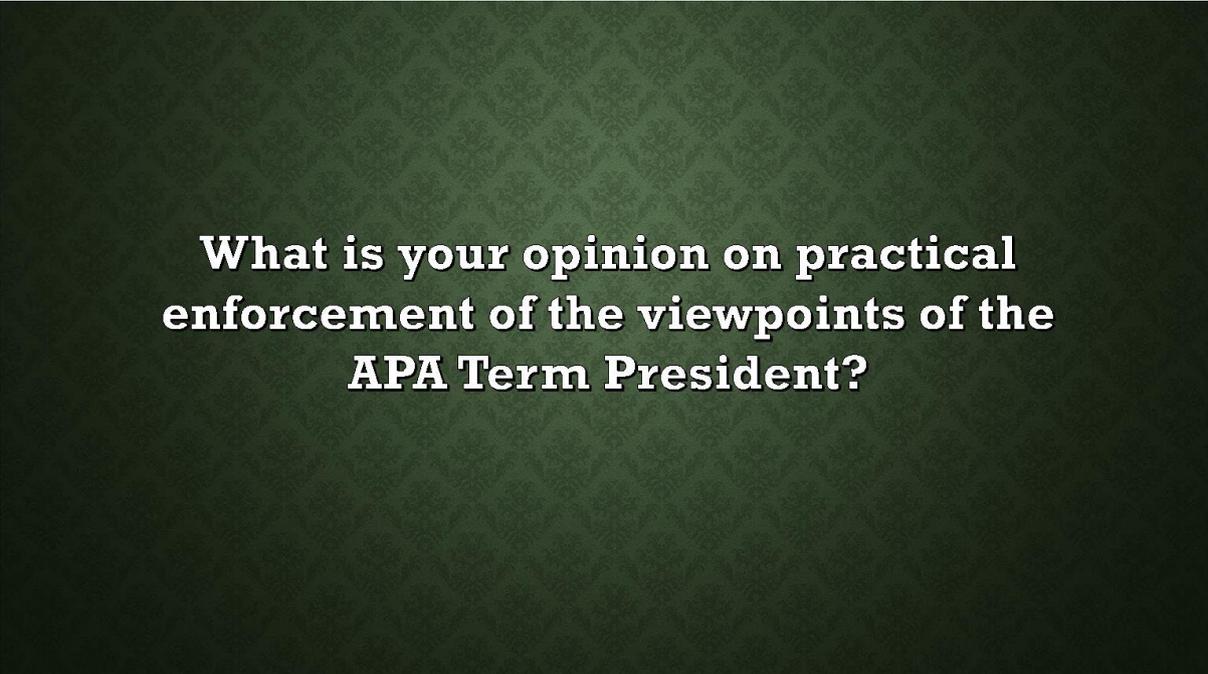


Can one label parliamentary diplomacy as complementary diplomacy which serves a complement tool to traditional diplomacy with the aim of securing the interests of countries?

How parliamentary diplomacy can help to cooperation and integration of the Asian Nations?



Can you describe your important experiences in bilateral and multilateral parliamentary diplomacy?



What is your opinion on practical enforcement of the viewpoints of the APA Term President?

**What do you think of the APA problems?
Are they structural, institutional, functional etc.
what are the most suitable solutions?**

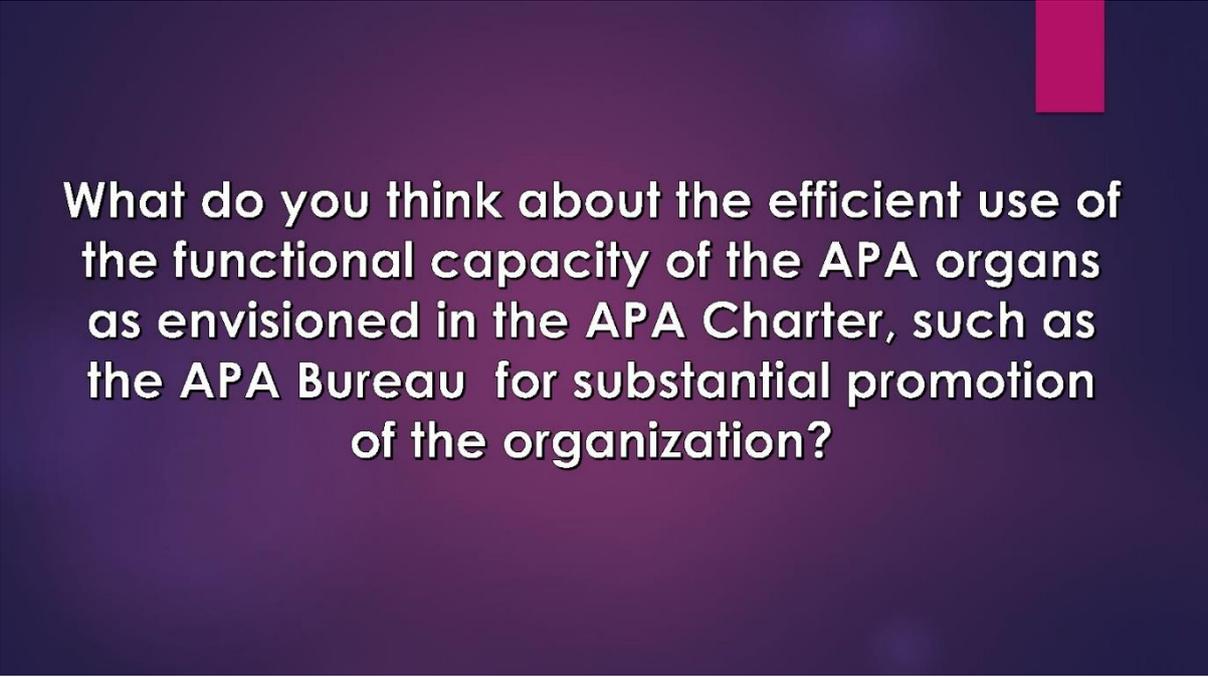
**What are the most important best practices
of the APA Parliamentary Group in the
member parliaments concerning the issues
outlined in the APA Resolutions?**



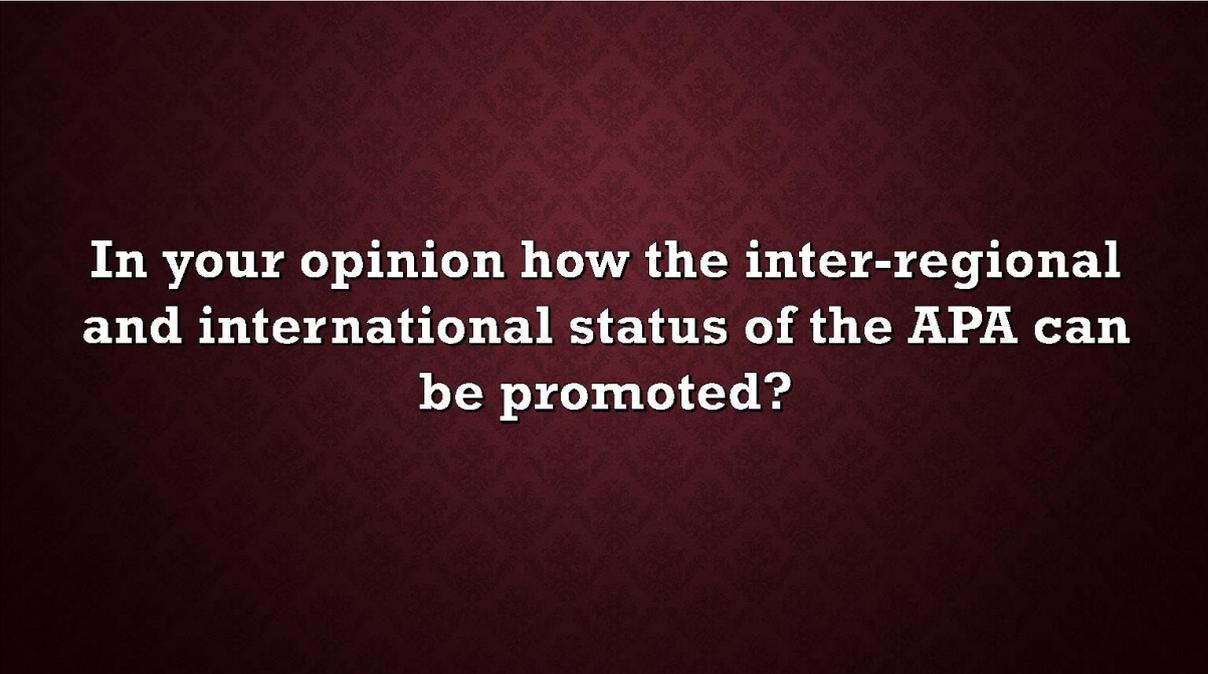
To what extent do you think the resolutions now under consideration by the four Standing Committees need to be amended, deleted, or consolidated and replaced by new resolutions?



What are the most important subject items of regional and international values are to be placed in the APA agendas?



What do you think about the efficient use of the functional capacity of the APA organs as envisioned in the APA Charter, such as the APA Bureau for substantial promotion of the organization?



In your opinion how the inter-regional and international status of the APA can be promoted?

FINAL REMARKS

Accordingly, the Secretariat is fully prepared:

- To take the task assigned to it under its mandate to collect the viewpoints of the APA member parliaments on institutional steps recommended for promotion of the of the APA
- To present a report to the upcoming Executive Council Meeting by the of this year and
- To put into effect the guidelines identified in the context of revitalization process for the efficiency and organizational capacity of the APA.



Thank you for your attention

Attachment IV
Speech of Indonesia

INSTITUTIONAL STEPS ON THE INSTITUTIONAL STEPS FOR APA
EFFECTIVENESS

*Honorable Secretary General,
Honorable Chariman of the SC on Planning and Budgeting
Honorable Head and Member of Delegations*

As we mentioned in the earlier session, the APA must have a double mission by increasing its internal significance and and expanding its impact external.

First, the APA has to be a reliable inter-parliamentary platform to engage in finding solutions for the problems in Asian regions. The APA must take vital role in helping, for instance, Palestine's persisting occupation by Israel, Myanmar conflict and humanitarian crises, security threats in every corner of Asian continents.

In addition to that, APA has to devote the energy to produce resolutions, strengthen commitment, and mobilize actions on regional development such as SDGs, green economy, digital economy, and so on. Every Standing Committee must pay attention to the current problems unique to Asian countries and sub-regions.

We need to build our significance in order to make APA more acceptable to all of Asian countries. The APA must have internal legitimacy among Asian nations.

Second, the APA also should be more active and pay more attention to the increase institutional outreach with many various global and sub-regional organizations. The APA has to open collaboration with other parliamentary organizations and taking interest of our regions. The APA must play a boundary spanning role between national and sub-regional interest and various global agenda.

To realize that double mission, as I/my colleague mentioned in the first session, we have to be committed on implementing financial contribution, capacity building, and also improving our working mechanism by considering of performance management, voting system, the role of audit institution.

In conclusion, I do believe that shared commitment and concerted effort among APA Members would become key factors which allow for more functioning the APA organization.

Once again, I would like to appreciate all the Parliament of Iran and the Secretariat for facilitating this sharing session. I hope that we can work together for the future of Asian society.

Thank you.

Speech of Pakistan

09-12th July, 2023
Tehran, Iran

**APA Working Group on Statutory
Document, 2nd Session
(Institutional Steps for APA
Effectiveness)**

Statement



**RESEARCH
DIRECTORATE
SENATE SECRETARIAT**

Statement

- **Honorable Parliamentarians!**
- **Excellencies, Dignitaries!**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen!**

Assalam-o-Alaikum!

I would like to thank all the Members present here, and especially the APA Secretariat for convening this 2nd Session of the APA Working Group on Statutory Document, on the important issue regarding institutional steps required for APA effectiveness and revitalization.

During the past three years, we have been facing immense challenges on both the domestic and global fronts, in the form of Covid-19 and climate change. I commend the resolve and commitment of APA Members for keeping the Affairs of APA afloat during these testing times. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the APA President and APA Secretary General for leading and guiding the work of APA in these stressing circumstances.

This year, we hope that the APA scheduled engagements will provide us with opportunities to discuss way and means for enhancing the institutional capacity of APA to achieve its goals. Today, global issues increasingly affect citizens more directly, be it terrorism, pandemics, migration, climate change or economic crisis. Therefore, Parliaments have no choice but to engage in multilateral cooperation coupled with adequate support for those in need.

Parliaments have a major role in the international affairs as peace builders, in terms of both conflict prevention and reconciliation. As we look in past 15 years, APA has transformed into the largest Asian Parliamentary body but now it is high time to build synergies between APA and other governmental organizations like ECO, SCO and ASEAN to further take the Asian integration process.

Similarly, we need to increase our access to key information and knowledge, to exercise accountability in the implementation of APA objectives through national legislation and public

policy. In this regard, we may also discuss how to devise a framework at APA level for engagement with academia and civil society on different issues under consideration of APA.

Along the same lines, it was during the 6th APA Plenary Session when Pakistan proposed the establishment of an Asian Parliament, which will no doubt become the institutional voice for Asia. However, we must acknowledge that it is a complex and long-term process that would require perseverance and consistent efforts by members. In this regard, APA should encourage mutual studies or research on potential areas of parliamentary cooperation for Asian Parliament.

Similarly, to transform APA into a representative institution for Asians, it is also necessary to have a viable and independent financial framework for APA. Pakistan believes that any model of payment proposed should be based on the principle of equality and at the same time we should be mindful of the financial situation of Member countries. Furthermore, budget utilization rules and regulations should be formulated, based on consensus and international best practices.

In terms of the proceedings of our Committee meetings and Plenary sessions, we would like to suggest the adoption of best practices of other Parliamentary organizations like IPU and CPA. In the Standing Committee Meetings, resolutions serve as guiding principle for APA Members. Therefore, we must focus on issues like promoting quality education, universal health coverage, decent work for all, green economy, human trafficking, women empowerment, tech empowerment, resilient agriculture, sustainable forests, and inclusive development. We also support the notion of establishing regional working groups with experts from member countries and preparation of an unbiased report/roadmap for making APA a potent and effective organization.

We fully endorse the initiative of APA President and Secretary General to reform the APA and will continue to contribute towards this end. I once again thank all the participants present here today, and look forward to fruitful discussions and suggestions to make APA the institutional voice of Asia.

Thank You!

Speech of Turkiye

Statement by H.E. Mr. Ömer ÖZMEN, Member of the Turkish Delegation to the APA, in the Meeting of the 2nd Sessison of the Working Group on Statutory Documents

Honourable Secretary-General,

Distinguished Chairman,

Dear Delegates,

Please allow me to thank the Islamic Consultative Parliament of Iran, His Excellency Mr. Alizadeh, Representative of the Vice-President of the APA and Chairman of this meeting of the Working Group, for undertaking the role of holding the meeting and for their kind hospitality. I would also like to thank all participants and the APA Secretariat for their contribution to the meeting.

As you may know, the Working Group was established in the meeting of the Executive Council in Rize, Türkiye, in October 2019. The reason behind this effort was to update and amend the APA Statutory Documents, with the intention to turn the APA into a more robust and efficient platform for parliamentary diplomacy in Asia and render its all bodies to work properly.

However, today we have seen that there is no specific progress made to this end since then, despite the fact that the Member Parliaments of the Working Group and voluntary participants had the opportunity to do so during the First Session of the Working Group hosted by the Turkish Parliament, in Ürgüp, in October 2021. I think the main problem was that the long debates by the Parliamentarians on each article stalled the process, and I am afraid, this problem will arise again and again if we keep following the same method.

Dear Colleagues,

Now that the main objective behind this meeting is to put forward ideas to take institutional steps to enhance the efficiency and organizational capacity as well as revitalization of the APA in light of the viewpoints made by His Excellency Professor Mustafa ŞENTOP, the then-APA President, during his inaugural address to the 13th APA Plenary Session in Antalya, Türkiye, in January 2023. I would like to suggest a new method to finalize the work on the APA statutory documents.

First of all, we should give up revising and amending the APA Charter and the Rules of Procedure through submission of amendments by Member Parliaments and debates on amendments by Parliamentarians. Because with this method it is highly likely to reach a dead end as we have witnessed in the case before us. Instead, I propose to establish a working group composed of experts, not parliamentarians. And then this group shall prepare thoroughly new and comprehensive documents without focusing on revising and amending the existing documents. The Secretariat shall inform all Member Parliaments as soon as possible and ask them if they would like to assign any expert to take part in the preparation of the documents as part of the working group.

Secondly, subsequent to the preparation of the statutory documents by the said working group, the political dimension shall intervene in the process, for example, by holding a meeting of the Executive Council comprised of the heads of the delegations from all Member Countries. The Secretariat shall disseminate the documents to all Member Parliaments in a reasonable time before the meeting of the Executive Council for their considerations.

Following the meeting of the Executive Council, an APA Summit of Speakers of Parliaments may be held for the final consultations before referring the documents to the Plenary for approval or the Executive Council can refer the documents directly to the Plenary for approval.

I think this will be the most practical and fruitful method to follow.

Thank you for your attention.

Speech of Vietnam

Asian Parliamentary Assembly

Standing Committee on Budget and Planning / Working Group on Statutory Documents



Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
9 - 12 July 2023

REMARK

BY HON. MR. LE ANH TUAN, VICE-CHAIRMAN
OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE,
VIET NAM NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
(Tehran, 11/7/2023)

✓
✓
Hon. Mr. H. E. Dr. Mohammad Reza MAJIDI, APA Secretary General

Dear Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

② H. E. Dr. Alizadeh, Head of the APA Parliamentary Group of Iran

On behalf of the Vietnamese National Assembly delegation, I would like to send to the leaders of the Islamic Republic of Iran as well as to the delegates the sincere feelings and most respectful greetings of the National Assembly and the Vietnamese people. I am delighted to attend this Asia Parliamentary Assembly (APA) Finance and Planning Committee Meeting in Iran, the country to which I have had opportunity to return to visit for the second time in the past years.

Thanks

the meeting of APA Standing Committee on Budget and Planning

✓
During the visits to Iran, seeing firsthand the development and great achievements that the Iranian people have achieved, made us even more impressed by the determination and efforts to develop the country of the Leader, and the Iranian people over the years, contributing to political stability, economic development, and strengthening Iran's position in the region and in the world.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

X
Asia is considered as the cradle of many ancient and distinctive civilizations and cultures of mankind. On the basis of those values, beyond differences in political institutions, history, religions, ethnicities and beliefs, Asian countries need to strengthen cooperation to promote peace and security, and to deal with common challenges. We need to continue to build and strengthen trust, improve mutual understanding, resolve disputes through dialogue, negotiate based on basic principles of international law, respect independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of each other. Connecting the peoples of Asia with each other and between Asia and the rest of the world with the goal of building a continent of peace, prosperity and sustainable development.

As a founding member of the Asian Parliaments Association for Peace (AAPP) ~~in~~ 1999, together with today's APA member parliaments, the National Assembly of Vietnam is ready to cooperate with APA parliaments to make practical contributions. , effectively in joint efforts, building an Asia region for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress, for the stability and sustainable development of the region and countries.

With that spirit, I highly appreciate the content of the meeting and the issues discussed by the delegates at this meeting to contribute to enhancing and promoting the effectiveness of APA's activities through budget and legal issues. ~~physical~~. We thank the Iranian Parliament's active participation and financial contribution to the activities of APA and the APA Secretariat over the past time.

Regarding the content of this Resolution, the Vietnamese Delegation have the following opinions:

- Financial contributions to APA's activities should also be linked to improving the efficiency, strengthening the operation and organization of APA and the APA Secretariat.
- Currently, there are a number of member parliaments that do not regularly participate in APA activities, so it is necessary to have close discussions with all member parliaments to reach consensus.
- The APA Secretariat considers and considers more forms of contributions for countries to decide and choose based on consensus.

Thank you very much./.

Speech of India

Statement for the use of Indian Delegation for the 2nd Session of the APA Working Group on Statutory Documents on the theme Steps to make the APA an effective institution

Hon'ble Chairperson and Distinguished Delegates

- It is indeed a matter of great pride to be in the midst of this distinguished gathering.
 - I am Jagdambika Pal, Member of the Parliament from Lower House of the Parliament of India. I am also the Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Energy which plays a crucial oversight role in our Parliamentary system to promote energy efficiency and green growth. I am glad to share with you that in the recent years, India has taken great strides in the area of development of renewable energy. India has emerged as third most attractive destination in the world for renewable energy investment. India also stands 4th in global ranking in terms of installed renewal energy capacity.
 - Distinguished Delegates, Parliamentary Diplomacy is a complementary tool available at the hands of Parliaments to look at the issues of contemporary relevance from the perspective of citizens at core and pursue ways towards solving those issues through dialogue and cooperation amongst the Member Parliaments of various countries.
 - In this respect, the role of Asian Parliamentary Assembly is of vital importance, as the Assembly serves as a common platform of the Parliaments of Asian nations for dialogue, exchange of ideas and collective action towards fostering peace, stability and prosperity in our region.
 - It is through such forums that we can build bridges, promote understanding and work together on common goals for betterment of our peoples.
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- It is, thus, important that the Assembly works effectively towards reaching common goals. Therefore, we fully agree that the APA needs reform at the earliest to make it more effective. Towards this objective, due consultations with all Member Parliaments are necessary and this working group can act as a medium for holding such consultations.
- We firmly believe that the APA should speak in one voice on issues of common concern to us. It necessitates that **any document- resolution, motion or declaration coming out of the Assembly must enjoy the confidence and trust of all member parliaments of the APA.**
- **This calls for improvement in the working methods of the APA,** which can be reflected through appropriate amendments of the APA Charter and the Rules of Procedures.
- For strengthening the unity and solidarity of the APA, **we must amend the charter and the rules of procedure to make the decision-making consensus based. This is the established norm of large multilateral settings such as the Non-aligned movement.**
- This consensus-based decision making must be reflected in the working methods of the Executive Council as well as the Assembly.
- In view of this, **we propose that the Charter and the Rules of Procedure be amended accordingly, so that all decisions of the APA are taken by consensus.**
- At the same time, **we would do ourselves a favour if no bilateral issues are brought up for discussion at any of the available fora within the APA-** Standing Committee, Executive Council, Working Groups, or the Plenary session and the Assembly. This must, therefore, be reflected in the APA Rules of Procedure.

- These proposals, along with other minor amendments to the APA Charter and the rules of procedures have already been shared with APA Secretariat for consideration.
- We are of the view that if these amendments to the Charter are carried out, the problems that the APA is facing would stand solved.
- We would urge all Member Parliaments to support our proposed amendments to make the APA a better and effective organization.
- Distinguished Delegates, let me conclude by saying that Parliament of India supports the objectives and working of the Assembly. India believes in strengthening the effectiveness of the APA by building consensus among all members for the future course of the organization so that it could reflect the concerns and aspirations of the entire membership; and we stand ready to work with all likeminded partners in this regard.
- With these words, I express my gratitude at being given this opportunity.

Thank you !

Namskar !
