



The 14th Plenary Session

Baku, Azerbaijan
20-24 February 2024

“Fostering Regional Cooperation for Sustainable Development in Asia”

Final Report

Inaugural Session

The Inaugural Session of the 14th APA Plenary was held on 21 February 2024, in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan.

Parliamentary delegations from following member countries participated in the meeting:

Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Laos, Maldives, Palestine, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Syria, Thailand, Tajikistan, Türkiye, UAE and Uzbekistan.

Observer Parliaments: Shura Council of Oman, Mejlis of Turkmenistan.

Observer Organizations: AIPU, AP, IPC, IPACIS, League of Parliamentarians for Al Quds, NAMPN, TURKPA

Special Guest: ASGAP

[\(Attachment I\)](#)

The following dignitaries presented their statements at the Inaugural Session:

H.E. Mohammad Reza MAJIDI, the APA Secretary-General

H.E. Mr. Numan KURTULMUS, APA President-in-Office, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye

H.E. Ms. Sahiba GAFAROVA, Speaker of the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan, as the APA President-in-Office newly assuming her duties

[\(Attachment II\)](#)

During Inaugural Session, the handover of the APA Presidency from Türkiye to Azerbaijan took place.

The following Speakers presented their remarks at the Inaugural Session:

- H.E. Mr. Ahmed Almusalam (Bahrain)
- H.E. Mr. Mohsin Ali Akbar Almandalawi (Iraq)
- H.E. Mr. Mohamed Aslam (Maldives)
- H.E. Mr. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana (Sir Lanka)
- H.E. Mr. Mahmadoir Zokirzoda (Tajikistan)
- H.E. Mr. Wanmuhamadnoor Matha (Thailand)
- H.E. Mr. Khalid Hilal Al Maawali (Oman, Observer)

The following Deputy Speakers presented their statements:

- H.E. Mr. Tariq Altayer Altayer (UAE)
- H.E. Mr. Sodiq Safoev (Uzbekistan)
- H.E. Mr. Ali Ahmad Faysal (Palestine)
- H.E. Mr. Hamda bint Hassan Al-Sulaiti (Qatar)
- H.E. Mr. Petr Tolstoy (Russia)
- H.E. Mr. Adel Abdulrahman Mohamed AL-ASOOMI (Arab Parliament)

[\(Attachment III\)](#)

At the end of the Inaugural Session the Speaker of the Milli Majlis of Azerbaijan announced that Ms. Amina Aghazada, the Head of the delegation of Azerbaijan to APA, will be her representative at the 14th APA Plenary.

The 14th APA Plenary Session

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda of the 14th Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly was adopted unanimously.

[\(Attachment IV\)](#)

2. Election of the Bureau

The Bureau of the 14th APA Plenary is composed of the following member states:

Chairperson: Azerbaijan

Vice- Chairs: Bahrain, Qatar, Russian Federation, Iraq¹

Rapporteur: Maldives

Members of the Bureau of the 14th APA Plenary were elected by acclamation.

3. Remarks by APA President, H.E. Speaker of Milli Majlis of Azerbaijan

On behalf of H.E. Ms. Sahiba GAFAROVA, APA President and Speaker of Milli Majlis of Azerbaijan, Ms. Amina Aghazada as the Head of delegation of Azerbaijan and representative of APA President welcomed the participants and appreciated the efforts of Türkiye as outgoing APA president and stated that Azerbaijan as the APA new president will do its utmost to open a new page in promoting constructive cooperation with all member parliaments. Azerbaijan is committed to upholding the lofty objectives of APA in all its aspects.

¹ Iraqi delegation nominated herself at the First Executive Council for the post of Vice-Presidency and the Chair of the Standing Committee on Political Affairs. During the 2nd Executive Council they did not reconfirm it due to some technicalities. Head of delegation of Iraq during the 14th Plenary announced that Iraqi Council of Representatives is in a position to host the Standing Committee on Political Affairs in 2024.

4. Report of the Chairperson of the 2nd Executive Council

The representative of the APA Secretariat presented the report of the 2nd Executive Council for adoption. ([Attachment V](#))

5. Report of the Secretary General on the work of the Organization

The APA Secretary General in his report to the Plenary covered the activities and the achievements of four Standing Committees as well as relevant developments in 2023. ([Attachment VI](#))

6. General Debate: Statements by Head of Delegations on:

“Fostering Regional Cooperation for Sustainable Development in Asia”

The Head of Delegations of the following member Parliaments, Observer Parliaments and Organizations addressed the 14th APA Plenary:

Bahrain, Indonesia, China, Bangladesh, Türkiye, Cyprus, Iran, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Laos, Syria, Iraq, League of Parliaments of Al Quds, IPC.

([Attachment VII](#))

7. Meeting of the Standing Committees

Parallel to the general debates in the Plenary Hall, the meeting of four Standing Committees were held to consider and approve the relevant documents on their agenda.

8. Meeting of the Drafting Committee on Declaration

An open-ended drafting committee on Baku Declaration was held. The interested delegations participated and reviewed the draft text offered by host country Azerbaijan. After an extensive exchange of views, the Baku Declaration was adopted. ([Attachment VIII](#))

9. Presentation of Reports by the Chairpersons of:

- Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development

The representative of APA Secretariat presented the report of the Committee to the Plenary for adoption. ([Attachment IX](#))

- Standing Committee on Budget and Planning

The delegation of Iran, Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Budget and Planning presented the report of the Committee to the Plenary for adoption. ([Attachment X](#))

- Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs

The representative of APA Secretariat presented the report of the Committee to the Plenary for adoption. ([Attachment XI](#))

- Standing Committee on Political Affairs

The representative of APA Secretariat presented the report of the Committee to the Plenary for adoption. ([Attachment XII](#))

10. Confirmation of APA Vice-Presidents for 2024

The 14th Plenary considered and endorsed its Vice Presidents and the Chair of four Standing Committees as follows:

- Qatar: Standing Committee on Budget and Planning
- Russian Federation: Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs
- Bahrain: Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development (2024-5)
- Iraq: Standing Committee on Political Affairs

11. Adoption of the Observer status of ASGAP

The 14th APA Plenary endorsed the request of the "Association of Secretaries General of Arab Parliaments" for the APA Observer Status.

12. Adoption of the Final Report of 14th Plenary Session

The final report of 14th plenary was adopted.

13. Any other matter

No issues were raised.

14. Closing



Asian Parliamentary Assembly The 14th Plenary Session



List of Participants

*February 20-24, 2024
Baku, Azerbaijan*

Azerbaijan

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Ms. Sahiba Gafarova | Speaker of the Milli Majlis |
| 2. Ms. Amina Aghazada
of the Milli Majlis | Head of the Delegation to the APA |
| 3. Mr. Ilham Mammadov
APA | Member of the Delegation to the |
| 4. Mr. Aydın Huseynov
APA | Member of the Delegation to the |
| 5. Mr. Anar Mammadov
APA | Member of the Delegation to the |
| 6. Mr. Samad Seyidov | Member of Parliament |
| 7. Mr. Fazil Mustafa | Member of Parliament |
| 8. Mr. Nizami Safarov | Member of Parliament |
| 9. Ms. Ulviyya Hamzayeva | Member of Parliament |
| 10. Mr. Javanshir Feyziyev | Member of Parliament |
| 11. Mr. Vugar Bayramov | Member of Parliament |
| 12. Mr. Elnur Allahverdiyev | Member of Parliament |
| 13. Mr. Shahin Abdullayev
Bahrain and Saudi | Ambassador of Azerbaijan to |

Arabia

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 14. Mr. Farid Hajiyev | Chief of Staff |
| 15. Mr. Firudin Hajiyev | Chief Administrator |
| 16. Mr. Rustam Mahmudov | Deputy Chief of Staff |
| 17. Mr. Teymur Taghiyev | Head of the Secretariat |
| 18. Mr. Ilkin Mammadov
department | Head of the International relations |
| 19. Ms. Aynur Nurahmadova | Assistant to the Speaker |
| 20. Mr. Elmar Huseynov | Assistant to the Speaker |
| 21. Mr. Agshin Hummatov | Assistant to the Speaker |
| 22. Mr. Mehman Gaibov
Relations Department | Head of the Press and Public |
| 23. Ms. Nafila Rahimova | Secretary of the Delegation |

Bahrain

- | | |
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| 24. Mr. Ahmed Almusalam
Representatives | Speaker of the Council of |
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25. Ms. Eman Showaiter	Member of Parliament
26. Ms. Abdulhakeem Alshanoo	Member of Parliament
27. Mr. Bader Altamimi	Member of Parliament
28. Mr. Ahmed Alsalloom	Member of Parliament
29. Ms. Jameela Alsalman	Member of Parliament
30. Mr. Abdulaziz Abul	Member of Parliament
31. Ms. Ebtessam Aldallal	Member of Parliament
32. Ms. Zainab Abdulameer	Member of Parliament
33. Mr. Khaled Buanaq	Member of Parliament
34. Mr. Mohamed Janahi	Member of Parliament
35. Mr. Rashed Abunajma	Secretary General
36. Mr. Mohamed Bin Daina	Staff
37. Mr. Salman Ebrahim	Staff
38. Mr. Mohamed Aljaberi	Staff
39. Ms. Ameena Haqiqi	Staff
40. Mr. Mahmeed Almahmeed	Media
41. Mr. Mohamed Alrafaei	Media

Bangladesh

42. Mr. A S M Feroz	Head of the Delegation
43. Mr. Md Aftab Uddin	Member of Parliament
44. Mr. Habibur Rahman	Member of Parliament
45. Mr. Nur Uddin Chowdhury Noyon	Member of Parliament
46. Mr. Sujit Kumar Dev	Staff
47. Mr. Mamunur Rashid	Staff

Cambodia

48. Mr. Bunhok Lim	Head of the Delegation
49. Ms. Chanmatin Phav	Staff

China

50. Mr. Wang Ke	Head of the Delegation
51. Ms. Yan Ke	Member of Parliament
52. Mr. Yuan Quan	Staff
53. Mr. Di Tongyang	Staff
54. Mr. Chang Sheng	Staff
55. Ms. Peng Lu	Interpreter
56. Mr. Shen Kun	Interpreter
57. Mr. Xie Yilin	Staff of embassy

Cyprus

58. Mr. George Loucaides	Head of the Delegation
59. Ms. Loukia Mouyi	Staff

Indonesia

60. Mr. Fadli Zon	Head of the Delegation
61. Mr. Putu Supadma Rudana	Member of Parliament
62. Ms. Agustina Wilujeng Pramestuti	Member of Parliament
63. Ms. Vanda Desy Sarundajang	Member of Parliament
64. Ms. Puteri Anetta Komarudin	Member of Parliament
65. Mr. Kamrussamad Mustahi	Member of Parliament

66. Mr. Jazuli Juwaini	Member of Parliament
67. Ms. Warsiti Alfiah	Secretary of the Delegation
68. Ms. Anne Widyana	Staff
69. Mr. Ahmadi	Staff
70. Mr. Keanu Arief Triputra Ramadhana Trisulo	Staff
71. Ms. Masyithoh Annisa Ramadhani	Staff
72. Mr. Danang Aziz Akbarona	Staff
73. Ms. Ruth Yohanna Lumbanraja	Staff
74. Ms. Bianca Destianti	Media
75. Ms. Merita Yenni	Counsellor of Ambassador
76. Mr. Rashad Mardanov	Staff of embassy

Iran

77. Mr. Jalil Rahimi Jahanabadi	Head of the Delegation
78. Mr. Abolfazl Amouei	Member of Parliament
79. Mr. Seyed Abbas Mousavi	Ambassador
80. Mr. Majid Feyzollahi	Staff
81. Mr. Amir Reza Ahmadi Khoy	Staff
82. Ms. Leila Taati	Staff
83. Mr. Ali Haji Mohammadi	Staff
84. Mr. Mohammad Javad Emanian	Staff of embassy
85. Mr. Adel Abdullahy	Interpreter

Iraq

86. Mr. Mohsin Ali Akbar Al-Mandalawi Representatives	Speaker of the Council of
87. Mr. Jabbar Frayyeh Abbas Al-Chnani	Member of Parliament
88. Ms. Vian Sabri Abdulkhaleq Alqadi	Member of Parliament
89. Mr. Haider M.Habeeb Majeed Al-Selami	Member of Parliament
90. Ms. Fatima Majeed Hameed Al-Issawi	Member of Parliament
91. Mr. Maki Rissan Abdulla Al-Mamori	Charge D'Affaires
92. Mr. Bashar Tareq Saeed	Staff
93. Mr. Alaa Jihanbksh	Staff
94. Mr. Salam Ali Mohammed Alogaili	Staff
95. Mr. Firas Zuhair Jaafar	Staff
96. Ms. Meera Mohammed Ameen Aldahlaki	Staff
97. Mr. Fikrat Fayyadh Ibrahim Almashhadani	Staff
98. Mr. Haider Tareq Agla Al-Rubaye	Staff
99. Mr. Ahmeed Majeed Al-Abooda	Staff
100. Mr. Ali Raad Abdulridh	Staff
101. Mr. Segvan Omer Mohammed	Staff of embassy
102. Mr. Ahmed Zaid Lateef Aldulaimi	Staff of embassy
103. Mr. Karrar Saleem Oleiwi Alrubaye	Staff of embassy
104. Mr. Wisam Sabeeh Zyarah	Photographer
105. Mr. Ismael Basim Jawad Al-Obaidi	Media
106. Mr. Sarag Abduljabbar Al-Hachimi	Media
107. Mr. Ahmed Hameed Majeed Al-Abooda	Media
108. Mr. Ismael Basim Jawad Al-Obaidi	Media
109. Mr. Nabeel Khaleel Mhmood	Interpreter
110. Mr. Ali Salman Rahman	Security
111. Mr. Ali Rafea Abbas Al-Fayyadh	Security

Jordan

112.	Mr. Fawwaz Al Zoubi	Head of the Delegation
113.	Ms. Rahaq Alzawahreh	Member of Parliament
114.	Ms. Amal Albashir	Member of Parliament
115.	Ms. Eslam Altabashat	Member of Parliament
116.	Ms. Hadya Mohammad Elias Alsarhan	Member of Parliament
117.	Ms. Zainab Salameh Salman Almousah	Member of Parliament
118.	Ms. Abeer Abdalla Hrithan Al-Jbour	Member of Parliament
119.	Mr. Jafar Rababah	Member of Parliament
120.	Ms. Rawa'ah Algharabli	Member of Parliament
121.	Mr. Khaled Elzu'bi	Staff

Kazakhstan

122.	Mr. Ruslan Kozhasbayev	Head of the Delegation
123.	Mr. Adilet Sagimbaev	Staff of embassy

Laos

124.	Mr. Thanta Kongphaly	Head of the Delegation
125.	Ms. Kaysone Keomanykhot	Staff

Maldives

126.	Mr. Mohamed Aslam	Speaker of the Shura Council
127.	Mr. Mohamed Shifau	Member of Parliament
128.	Ms. Mariam Marin Hussain	Staff
129.	Mr. Ahmed Farooq	Security
130.	Mr. Mohamed Abdul Azeez	Security

Oman (observer)

131.	Mr. Khalid Hilal Nasser Al Maawali	Chairman of the Shura Council
132.	Mr. Talib Al Bulushi	Member of Parliament
133.	Mr. Hamood Al Saadi	Member of Parliament
134.	Mr. Khalifa Al Harsousi	Member of Parliament
135.	Mr. Yousuf Al Mukhaoni	Member of Parliament
136.	Mr. Hamdoon Al Harthi	Staff
137.	Mr. Sumaiya Alamri	Staff
138.	Mr. Ahmed Al Hosni	Staff

Palestine

139.	Mr. Ali Faysal	Head of the Delegation
140.	Mr. Nasser Abdal Wahab	Ambassador
141.	Ms. Miar Rantisi	Deputy Ambassador

Qatar

142.	Ms. Hamda Hassan Al-Sulaiti	Head of the Delegation
143.	Mr. Ahmad Hitmi Al-Hitmi	Member of Parliament
144.	Mr. Saoud Jassim Al-Buainain	Member of Parliament
145.	Mr. Hamad Khalaf Al Hemaidi	Charge D'Affairs
146.	Mr. Abdulla Khamis Al-Kubaisi	Staff
147.	Mr. Ahmad Awad Al-Noubi	Staff
148.	Mr. Nasser Mohammed Al-Maadeed	Staff

149. Mr. Ilham Garayev Staff of embassy

Russia

150. Mr. Petr Tolstoy Head of the Delegation
151. Mr. Boris Chernyshov Member of Parliament
152. Mr. Gennady Ordenov Member of Parliament
153. Ms. Dina Oiun Member of Parliament
154. Mr. Kazbek Taisaev Member of Parliament
155. Ms. Olga Folomeeva Staff
156. Mr. Alexander Tarasov Staff
157. Mr. Andrei Borzov Staff
158. Mr. Denis Fabrichnikov Staff
159. Ms. Mariia Valueva Staff
160. Ms. Sofiiia Chachiia Staff
161. Mr. Igor Mikheev Staff
162. Mr. Sergei Zenkov Counsellor of embassy
163. Mr. Pavel Kukarkin Interpreter
164. Ms. Veronika Belousova Interpreter
165. Ms. Liubov Bogoslovskaya Interpreter
166. Ms. Daria Skvortsova Interpreter

Saudi Arabia

167. Mr. Abdullah Alsheikh Speaker of the Shura Council
168. Mr. Hani Khashoggi Member of Parliament
169. Mr. Fares Alosaimi Member of Parliament
170. Ms. Aljohara Al Saud Member of Parliament
171. Ms. Rimah Alyahya Member of Parliament
172. Mr. Essam Algetale Ambassador
173. Mr. Fahad Aldughaiter Staff
174. Mr. Khalid Almansour Staff
175. Mr. Fahad Al Omer Staff
176. Mr. Khalid Alturki Staff
177. Mr. Yazeed Alsehaim Staff
178. Mr. Talal Almohammadi Staff of embassy
179. Mr. Akram Hobrom Interpreter
180. Mr. Turab Abdullayev Interpreter

Sri Lanka

181. Mr. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana Speaker of the Parliament

Syria

182. Mr. Mustafa Khalil Head of the Delegation
183. Mr. Abdullatif Albakkar Member of Parliament
184. Mr. Adel Alshiban Member of Parliament
185. Mr. Fayez Al Abdullah Member of Parliament
186. Mr. Majd Saoud Staff

Tajikistan

187. Mr. Mahmadoir Zokirzoda Chairman of the Majlisi
namoyandagon
188. Mr. Saidmurod Fattohzoda Member of Parliament

189.	Mr. Ilhom Abdurahmon	Ambassador
190.	Mr. Amriddin Qosimzoda	Staff
191.	Mr. Najibullo Okilzoda	Staff
192.	Mr. Qadriddin Akramov	Staff
193.	Mr. Muhamadato Sultonov	Media
194.	Mr. Mahmadjon Zohirov	Security

Thailand

195.	Mr. Wanmuhammadnoor Matha Speaker of the House of Representatives	President of the National Assembly,
196.	Mr. Worawit Baru	Member of Parliament
197.	Mr. Romtham Khumnurak	Member of Parliament
198.	Mr. Surapong Suwana-Adth	Member of Parliament
199.	Ms. Chaweerat Kasetsoontorn	Member of Parliament
200.	Mr. Apirat Sugondhabhirom	Ambassador
201.	Mr. Surapon Nagwanit	Staff
202.	Mr. Dumrong Poottan	Staff
203.	Mr. Muk Sulaiman	Staff
204.	Ms. Steejit Taipiboonsuk	Staff
205.	Mr. Korakot Kongthong	Staff
206.	Ms. Kanteera Leelanond	Staff
207.	Mr. Russdy Khantanit	Staff
208.	Mr. Iskanda Wattanathorn	Staff
209.	Mr. Wittawat Hompirom	Staff
210.	Mr. Krit Sunthornwong	Staff
211.	Ms. Charuphan Choovej	Staff
212.	Ms. Boontarika Junhanandana	Secretary of the Delegation
213.	Mr. Pipat Charoensuk	Staff of embassy
214.	Mr. Kraipoom Wetpisai	Media
215.	Mr. Sathaphon Koedphae	Media
216.	Ms. Narakorn Tiyyayon	Media

Türkiye

217.	Mr. Numan Kurtulmuş Assembly	Speaker of the Grand National
218.	Mr. Abdulkadir Emin Önen	Head of the Delegation to the APA
219.	Mr. Ömer Özmen	Member of Parliament
220.	Mr. Vecdi Gündoğdu	Member of Parliament
221.	Mr. İlyas Topsakal	Member of Parliament
222.	Mr. Osman Cengiz Çandar	Member of Parliament
223.	Mr. Kürşad Zorlu	Member of Parliament
224.	Mr. Şamil Ayrim	Member of Parliament
225.	Ms. Elvan Işık Gezmiş	Member of Parliament
226.	Mr. Mustafa Bilici	Member of Parliament
227.	Mr. Cahit Bağcı	Ambassador
228.	Mr. Harun Ipek	Staff
229.	Mr. Ali Murat Nas	Staff
230.	Mr. Cemal Çöpürgensli	Staff
231.	Mr. Murat Hastürk	Staff
232.	Ms. Elif Esra Onal	Staff

233.	Mr. Hakan Arıburun	Staff
234.	Mr. Ahmet Özgür	Staff
235.	Mr. Selman Ertürk	Staff
236.	Mr. Murat Çelik	Staff
237.	Ms. Kübra Alkan Özdemir	Staff
238.	Mr. Mücahit Arslan	Staff
239.	Mr. Mustafa İğci	Staff
240.	Mr. Gökhan Akçay	Staff
241.	Mr. Süleyman Yılmaz	Media
242.	Mr. Muhammet Fatih Demirci	Media
243.	Mr. Edib Kurt	Media
244.	Mr. Muhammed Karadağ	Media
245.	Mr. Ali Kemal Akan	Media
246.	Mr. Ersin Ercan	Media
247.	Mr. Zafer Çakmak	Media
248.	Mr. Ahmet Görmez	Media
249.	Mr. Ali Gündoğdu	Media
250.	Mr. Emre Karaca	Media
251.	Mr. Engin Eshgi	Media
252.	Ms. Öncü Güneş	Staff of embassy
253.	Mr. Turgut Avcı	Interpreter
254.	Mr. Hürriyet Gizem Özsoy	Interpreter
255.	Ms. Pınar Sezgi	Interpreter
256.	Ms. Ayşenur Yaman Karsavuranoğlu	Security
257.	Mr. Müslüm Uğur Subaşı	Security
258.	Mr. Gökhan İmriz	Security
259.	Mr. Oğuzhan Bayrak	Security
260.	Mr. Gökhan Yılmaz	Security
261.	Mr. Mesut Arslan	Security

Turkmenistan (*observer*)

262.	Mr. Merdan Tuvakov	Head of the Delegation
263.	Mr. Nepes Rozyyev	Member of Parliament

United Arab Emirates

264.	Mr. Tariq Humaid Matar Mohd Altayer	Head of the Delegation
265.	Mr. Khaled Omar Alkharji	Member of Parliament
266.	Ms. Nedal Mohammed Alteneiji	Member of Parliament
267.	Ms. Fatima Ali Almheiri	Member of Parliament
268.	Mr. Mohamed Essa Alkashef Al-Ali	Member of Parliament
269.	Mr. Mohammed Al Blooshi	Ambassador
270.	Ms. Afra Rashed Albasti	Staff
271.	Ms. Hamda Ali Alblooshi	Staff
272.	Mr. Abdulla Ali Alaleeli	Staff
273.	Mr. Yusif Hajiyev	Staff
274.	Ms. Shaikha Saeed Alteneiji	Media
275.	Ms. Wadha Sulaiman Aldhanhani	Media
276.	Mr. Nasir Maharramov	Photographer
277.	Mr. Boyukagha Naghiyev	Videographer

Uzbekistan

278.	Mr. Sodiq Safoev	Head of the Delegation
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| 279. | Mr. Bahrom Ashrafkhanov | Ambassador |
| 280. | Mr. Matlabkhodja Abidov | Staff |

APA Secretariat

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|------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 281. | Mr. Mohammad Reza Majidi | Secretary General |
| 282. | Mr. Kia Tabatabaee | Deputy Secretary General |
| 283. | Mr. Mehdi Ghashghavi | Executive Deputy of Secretariat |
| 284. | Mr. Mehdi Mollahosseini | APA Senior Expert |
| 285. | Mr. Saeed Sohrabinia | Director of Information Technology |

Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union – (observer)

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| 286. | Mr. Fayed Al Shawabkah | Secretary General |
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Arab Parliament – (observer)

- | | | |
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| 287. | Mr. Adel Abdulrahman Alasoomi | President |
| 288. | Mr. Hesham Ahmed Yusuf Ahmed | Member of Organisation |
| 289. | Mr. Hamad Abdullaa Al-Mulla | Member of Organisation |
| 290. | Mr. Abduirahman Ahmed Alfarhan | Media |

Association of Secretaries General of Arab Parliaments (ASGAP) – Special Guest

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|------|-------------------|------------------------|
| 291. | Mr. Jasem Alnusif | Head of the Delegation |
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International Parliamentarians Congress (IPC) – (observer)

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| 292. | Ms. Sitara Ayaz | Secretary General |
| 293. | Ms. Mehk Butt | Staff |

Interparliamentary Assembly of member nations of the CIS (IPA CIS) – (observer)

- | | | |
|------|---------------------|--|
| 294. | Mr. Rasim Musabayov | Head of the Delegation |
| 295. | Mr. Aydin Jafarov | Deputy Secretary General of the
IPA CIS Council – |

Plenipotentiary Representative of the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan

League of Parliamentarians for Al Quds – (observer)

- | | | |
|------|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| 296. | Mr. Hamid Abdullah Hussein Al-Ahmar | President |
| 297. | Mr. Abed Allah Elbeltaji | Staff |

Non-Aligned Movement Parliamentary Network (NAM PN) – (observer)

- | | | |
|------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 298. | Mr. Elnur Allahverdiyev | Head of the Delegation |
|------|-------------------------|------------------------|

Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic States (TURKPA) – (observer)

- | | | |
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| 299. | Mr. Mehmet Süreyya Er | Secretary General |
| 300. | Mr. Fuad Alakbarov | Deputy Secretary General |



Opening Remarks
by His Excellency Dr. Mohammad Reza Majidi
Secretary General of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly
At the inaugural session of the 14th Plenary

**Honourable speakers,
Esteemed Delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

I am truly delighted and deeply honoured to address this distinguished gathering at the 14th Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, hosted in the celebrated and impressive city of Baku.

This occasion provides a cherished moment to extend a warm welcome to all esteemed participants, who have accepted the gracious invitation extended by Her Excellency Sahiba GAFAROVA, Speaker of the Milli Majlis of Azerbaijan and the APA Secretary General, to participate in the 14th APA Plenary Session.

It is my solemn duty and privilege to express profound thanks, on my behalf, the APA's Permanent Secretariat team, and all present delegations, to the Speaker of the Milli Majlis of Azerbaijan and the distinguished officials from the Government and Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan for their exemplary planning and warm hospitality extended to all of us.

**Honourable speakers,
Esteemed Delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen**

Today marks a momentous juncture as we witness the transition of APA's presidency and stewardship from the august Grand National Assembly of Türkiye, an emblem of dedication within the APA, to the esteemed Milli Majlis of Azerbaijan, heralding a new chapter of leadership for the coming two years.

This milestone builds upon the collective achievements and endeavours of all past APA presidencies, with the Turkish presidency being particularly noteworthy for its robust and vigorous leadership, which has significantly contributed to our mission and benefited from its innovative authority.

In the spirit of amity, I extend my deepest admiration and gratitude to His Excellency Numan KURTULMUŞ, the distinguished Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye, his esteemed predecessors, and their representatives, for their invaluable contribution as APA presidents. I earnestly solicit their continued support and guidance for our organization's future endeavours.

As a regional and global entity, we stand at the point of significant challenges and boundless opportunities. I am confident and filled with optimism that under the wise and dynamic leadership of the Milli Majlis of Azerbaijan, the APA will thrive and succeed in the next two years.

I also pledge our unwavering commitment to support the Azerbaijani presidency in every conceivable manner to ensure a monumental achievement for our organization.

The theme of the 14th Plenary Session, "Fostering Regional Cooperation for Sustainable Development in Asia," underscores our commitment to address all aspects of the critical issue of sustainable development. Notwithstanding the recent grave developments in Gaza we are left with no option to focus our attention and pull our resources towards achieving a fast and comprehensive resolution of this inhuman and catastrophic situation being imposed by Zionist Entity.

In conclusion, I wish to reiterate the unyielding dedication of the APA's Permanent Secretariat in advancing the goals of our organization by capitalizing our human talent, financial resources, and diverse capabilities to facilitate the success of our new leadership.

Thank you for your esteemed presence and kind attention.

Statement by:
H.E. Ms. Sahiba GAFAROVA,
Speaker of the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan
The 14th Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly
22 February 2024

Honorable Speakers of Parliaments,
Honorable Vice Speakers of Parliaments,
Distinguished colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen.

It is my great pleasure and honor to welcome you in Azerbaijan on the occasion of the 14th Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly.

Today, the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan takes over the Presidency of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly for the next two years. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to all member parliaments of the Assembly for their support of the candidacy of our parliament. This is a matter of great pride for us.

It is particularly gratifying to take over the presidency from the honorable speaker of the parliament of the brotherly Türkiye, His Excellency, Mr. Numan Kurtulmush.

On behalf of all of us, I would like to thank Mr.Kurtulmush and the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye for the commitment demonstrated during the Presidency. The immense work undertaken in the last 6 years has been very important for the development of our Assembly and interparliamentary cooperation.

I also want to express my gratitude to Mr. Mohammad Reza Majidi, the Secretary General of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly for his continuous efforts and effective management of the Secretariat.

Honorable colleagues,

Today's urgent challenges such as humanitarian crises, conflicts, poverty, climate change along with rise of discrimination, racism, xenophobia and Islamophobia do also negatively affect the Asian region.

It must be acknowledged that all these challenges can be addressed not individually, but only collectively through joint efforts. This is also true with regards to peace, security, stability and sustainable development in our region. Taking into account its natural, human resources, gained achievements in various fields, I believe, our region is well-equipped to tackle these challenges. Diversities of the Asian region in geography, demography, culture and religion do not divide our countries and peoples. Instead, these diversities enrich them and bring even closer.

Dear colleagues,

Asia has plenty to offer in terms of cooperation, dialogue and solidarity. In this sense, the Asian Parliamentary Assembly represents an important multilateral platform for these purposes. Today, the activities of the APA cover significant areas such as political, economic, social, cultural and others.

Thus, by bringing our parliaments together, it further mobilizes the efforts of our countries for common goals. At the same time, it provides parliamentary contribution to achievement of these goals.

Dear colleagues,

As the parliament of Azerbaijan, we regard the APA as a significant framework. It reflects our joint willingness to deepen our inter-parliamentary dialogue. I

believe, development of institutional capacity of the organization will further strengthen our cooperation.

The work of the Assembly can be further consolidated by reinvigorating and increasing the effectiveness of the existing bodies regulated by the APA Charter. Establishment of the new mechanisms will also greatly enrich our work. The Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs in its meeting held in Baku in September last year, adopted the resolution on establishment of a Commission on Women.

This commission will solidify our work on the issues of women empowerment, gender equality. It will also acknowledge the contributions that women make to realization of our goals.

Development of cooperation between the APA and other inter-parliamentary organizations will facilitate an effective participation of the Assembly in global parliamentary diplomacy.

As you know, the Milli Majlis also chairs the Parliamentary Network of the Non-Aligned Movement. Last year in Antalya, upon our initiative, the Network applied for and was granted the status of observer in the APA. The Network will hold its third conference in the framework of the 148th General Assembly of IPU in March in Geneva. Granting of observer status to APA in the Network and signing of Memorandum of cooperation will enable both entities to actively participate in parliamentary diplomacy.

Distinguished colleagues,

Azerbaijan attaches great importance to the development of cooperation with Asian countries both on a bilateral and multilateral basis.

There are important areas, where our countries can further increase their collaboration for the benefit of our region and enable to reach common development goals.

One of them is transport connectivity. As a result of huge investments in its transportation infrastructure, Azerbaijan has turned into one of the transport and logistics hubs in Eurasia. East-West and North-South Transport Corridors pass through Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan's infrastructure is accessible to all Asian countries. Increased cooperation in this sphere will definitely advance the ties in economy and trade between our countries.

Then there is the issue of climate change, which demand all of us to act more decisively. Implementation of projects and programs on alternative energy resources will contribute to our efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and protect the environment.

The clean environment and green growth are one of the main priority areas of Azerbaijan's sustainable development agenda. Azerbaijan has also joined the Global Pledge to triple renewable capacity and double energy efficiency worldwide by 2030. Azerbaijan has been chosen as the host of COP29 with unanimous support of international community. This is the acknowledgement of Azerbaijan's commitment to supporting international efforts in the field of climate change.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Azerbaijan firmly defends international law and justice at the global arena. With regard to the Palestinian cause, Azerbaijan's stance is principled and consistent.

Azerbaijan firmly supports a two-state solution for this issue, in line with international law and relevant UN resolutions.

Distinguished colleagues,

We remain deeply concerned with the rapidly deteriorating humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip. Civilian death toll, including among women and children is especially disturbing. Azerbaijan joins others in calling for an urgent de-escalation and the immediate cessation of hostilities.

It is evident that humanitarian aid to civilians should be delivered without any delay. Any action that could further aggravate the situation should be avoided. All efforts should be mobilized to prevent further calamity.

Honorable colleagues,

Taking this opportunity, I would like to inform you on the current situation in the South Caucasus that also affects peace and stability in the wider region.

Just recently, in early February, the extraordinary presidential elections were held in our country, which resulted in overwhelming victory of Ilham Aliyev. The main significance of these elections was that, for the first time, they were held in all sovereign territories of Azerbaijan.

As a result of the 44-day Patriotic War in 2020, Azerbaijan liberated its territories from the 30 year-long Armenian occupation and restored its territorial integrity. Counter-terror measures conducted in September last year, eradicated separatism in our lands and Azerbaijan restored its sovereignty over all its territories.

Today, Azerbaijan conducts the large-scale restoration and reconstruction works in the liberated territories through huge investments.

Former IDPs have already started to return back to their homes. By the end of 2026, their numbers will reach 140 thousand.

Azerbaijan also makes enormous efforts to ensure long-term peace and stability in the region. Azerbaijan's proposal to Armenia on normalization of relations and signing of a peace agreement is based on main principles of international law. After more than 3 years of Armenian political and military provocations, signing of the peace agreement is still possible.

Several days ago, bilateral meeting took place between the President of Azerbaijan and the Prime Minister of Armenia in the framework of the Munich Security Conference.

Agreements reached on negotiations for a peace treaty and meetings on border delimitation can be evaluated as a positive step.

Hopefully, Armenia will refrain from provocations, involvement of biased third parties and will abandon its ongoing claims against the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, which is reflected in its Constitution and other legislative acts, and continue direct bilateral negotiations on peace agreement. The only way for the long-term peace and stability in the region is to establish relations with neighbors on the basis of norms and principles of international law.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In conclusion, I would like to, once again, thank you for support and trust put in our Presidency. I firmly believe that with our common efforts, the Asian Parliamentary Assembly will continue to serve as a platform for development of our cooperation and realization of our common goals. Thank you.



مملكة البحرين
الشعبية البرلمانية

Parliamentary Group
of the Kingdom of Bahrain

كلمة

معالي السيد أحمد بن سلمان المسلم رئيس مجلس النواب
رئيس اللجنة التنفيذية للشعبة البرلمانية - مملكة البحرين

في الحفل الافتتاحي للجمعية البرلمانية الآسيوية

باكو - جمهورية أذربيجان

20 - 24 فبراير 2024

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

الحمد لله، والصلاة والسلام على أشرف الخلق والمرسلين، سيدنا محمد وعلى آله وصحبه أجمعين..

معالي البروفسورة الدكتورة، صاحبة غافاروفا.. رئيسة الجمعية الوطنية بجمهورية أذربيجان.. رئيسة الجمعية البرلمانية الآسيوية..

أصحاب المعالي والسعادة، رؤساء وأعضاء المجالس والبرلمانات، والوفود المشاركة..

سعادة الدكتور، محمد رضا مجيدي .. الأمين العام للجمعية البرلمانية الآسيوية..

الأخوة والأخوات، الحضور الكرام..

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته،،

معالي الرئيسة،،

بداية.. أود أن أعرب لكم، عن خالص التهاني والتبريكات، لرئاسة الجمعية البرلمانية الآسيوية في الدورة الحالية، و متمنيا لمعالكم التوفيق والنجاح، في تطوير مسارات العمل البرلماني، والارتقاء بمنهجية تفعيل دور الدبلوماسية البرلمانية الآسيوية، لما فيه خير وصالح المجموعة الآسيوية.

كما أود أن أتقدم بخالص الشكر التقدير، إلى معالي الدكتور نعمان كورتولموش، رئيس الجمعية الوطنية الكبرى بجمهورية تركيا، على جهوده المتميزة خلال رئاسة الجمعية البرلمانية الآسيوية في الدورة الماضية.

ومعربا عن بالغ الاعتزاز، بثقة جمعيتكم الموقرة، في تزكية سعادة النائب احمد صباح السلوم عضو مجلس النواب بمملكة البحرين، بمنصب نائب رئيس الجمعية الآسيوية، وب رئاسة لجنة الشؤون الاقتصادية والتنمية المستدامة للسنتين 2024 - 2025، وذلك للمرة الثانية على التوالي، تأكيدا لتقديركم لجهود الشعبة البرلمانية في مملكة البحرين، وإسهاماتها في العمل البرلماني الآسيوي.

الحضور الكرام،،

يسعدنا المشاركة اليوم، في هذا الاجتماع البرلماني الهام، والذي ينعقد لبحث موضوع "تعزيز التعاون الإقليمي من أجل التنمية المستدامة في آسيا"، وتبادل الأفكار والتجارب، وقصص النجاح التنموية.

مؤكدين إن مملكة البحرين، وبقيادة حضرة صاحب الجلالة الملك حمد بن عيسى آل خليفة ملك البلاد المعظم حفظه الله ورعاه، ودعم ومتابعة صاحب السمو الملكي الأمير سلمان بن حمد آل خليفة ولي العهد رئيس مجلس الوزراء حفظه الله، تولى اهتماما بالغا في تعزيز التعاون الإقليمي من أجل التنمية المستدامة، من خلال بناء الشراكات الاستراتيجية، والحفاظ على السلم والأمن والاستقرار، وتوفير البيئة الآمنة المزدهرة.

وفي إطار جهودها لضمان التنمية المستدامة وتعزيزها، فقد أطلقت مملكة البحرين إطار الأمم المتحدة للتعاون في مجال التنمية المستدامة 2021 - 2022.

كما وأكدت مملكة البحرين، خلال رئاستها لحوار التعاون الآسيوي للفترة 2021-2022، على تعميق التنسيق والتعاون مع الشركاء، وتوسيع جميع القدرات، وتسخير كافة الإمكانيات، واستثمار كافة الفرص والثروات، لتعزيز التنمية الشاملة والمستدامة والازدهار في جميع أنحاء آسيا، وتحقيق أهداف حوار التعاون الآسيوي.

الحضور الكرام،،

إن نصوص دستور مملكة البحرين، ومبادئ ميثاق العمل الوطني، الذي احتفلت مملكة البحرين في الأسبوع الماضي، بالذكرى الثالثة والعشرين لإقراره، عبر الإجماع الشعبي العام، حينما تلاقت الرؤية الملكية مع الإرادة الوطنية، قد رسخت مفاهيم التنمية المستدامة على كافة الأصعدة، كما رسمت رؤية البحرين

الاقتصادية 2030 ملامح واضحة للتطوير الاقتصادي، والتعاون الإقليمي، بجانب وجود منظومة تشريعية عصرية رائدة، تدعم تحقيق أهداف التنمية المستدامة.

كما أن مجلس النواب، وخلال الفصل التشريعي السادس، اعتمد وبالإجماع، برنامج الحكومة (2023-2026) الذي حمل عنوان "من التعافي إلى النمو المستدام"، والذي تضمن مجموعة من الخطط والمشروعات، والبرامج والمبادرات، التي تواكب أهداف خطة التنمية المستدامة، كما تم إطلاق خطة التعافي الاقتصادي، وبرنامج التوازن المالي، بالإضافة إلى إنشاء أول وزارة للتنمية المستدامة في المنطقة.

وفي ضوء تأكيدنا على التزام مملكة البحرين بتحقيق الاستدامة بمختلف المجالات التنموية، فقد تم احراز تقدم نوعي، إتضح بجلاء من خلال الاستعراض الوطني الطوعي الثاني لمملكة البحرين بشأن التقدم المحرز في تحقيق أهداف التنمية المستدامة، في منتدى الأمم المتحدة السياسي الرفيع المستوى المعني بالتنمية المستدامة لعام 2023.

الحضور الكرام،،

وفي سياق حديثنا، وتركيز الجلسة الـ 14 للجمعية البرلمانية الآسيوية، على موضوع "تعزيز التعاون الإقليمي من أجل التنمية المستدامة في آسيا"، فإننا أمام تحدي كبير، يعيق استدام التنمية والاستقرار في دولنا، والمتمثل فيما يتعرض له الشعب الفلسطيني الشقيق في قطاع غزة، من اعتداءات مستمرة، تظال الأبرياء من النساء والشيوخ والأطفال.

الأمر الذي يستوجب منا التحرك الفاعل، ووحدة الموقف البرلماني الآسيوي، في دعم القضية الفلسطينية.. معربين عن بالغ تقديرنا للجمعية البرلمانية الآسيوية في الموافقة على إنشاء (لجنة فلسطين) ضمن لجانها.

ومؤكدين في هذا الشأن، موقف مملكة البحرين الثابت في دعم القضية الفلسطينية، وحقوق الشعب الفلسطيني في إقامة دولته المستقلة، وعاصمتها القدس الشرقية، وفقا لحل الدولتين، والتزاما بالقرارات الدولية.

ختاماً،،

نتوجه بخالص الشكر وعظيم التقدير لمعالي البروفسورة الدكتورة، صاحبة غافاروفا، رئيسة الجمعية الوطنية بجمهورية أذربيجان، على كرم الضيافة وحسن الاستقبال.. والشكر موصول إلى الأمانة العامة في الجمعية الوطنية بجمهورية أذربيجان، والأمانة العامة للجمعية البرلمانية الآسيوية، على حسن التنظيم لهذا الاجتماع البرلماني الإقليمي.

شكراً لحسن إصغائكم،،

والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته..

**Statement of Deputy Chairman
of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly
of the Russian Federation
H.E. Mr. Petr Tolstoy**

Inaugural Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly

Baku, Azerbaijan
22 February 2024

Dear Madam Chairman,
Dear Mr. Secretary General,
Dear Speakers and Deputy Speakers,
Dear Parliamentarians,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. On behalf of the Russian parliamentary delegation and my country – Russian Federation, I would like to thank the Milli Majlis of the Azerbaijan Republic for the traditional warm welcome and the creation of excellent conditions for work in hospitable Baku.

I take this opportunity to congratulate our Turkish colleagues and the Chairman of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye Mr. N. Kurtulmuş on the conclusion of the Turkish chairmanship of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly. You made a valuable contribution to its work and took responsibility for the development of the APA in a difficult period of time. We greatly appreciate your commitment to promote cooperation and dialogue based on mutual understanding and respect.

I am confident that Azerbaijan, having taken over the APA chairmanship from Türkiye today, will also successfully chair the Assembly and effectively coordinate the efforts of the parliaments of our countries in solving pressing regional and global problems. I wish the entire team of the Milli Majlis good luck and success.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the Secretary General and the APA Secretariat for their assistance and hard work to ensure the activities of the Assembly.

2. Colleagues! We express our sincere condolences to the families and friends of those killed as a result of the unprecedented escalation in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict zone, and we sympathize with all those affected.

We are deeply concerned about the current situation. As a result of the hostilities the Gaza Strip was engulfed in a large-scale humanitarian disaster. During these five months civilian casualties, most of whom are women and children, range into the tens of thousands.

Israeli air strikes in the enclave have completely or partially destroyed more than half of the residential buildings and critical civilian infrastructure, including hospitals.

The already dire situation for the residents of the strip is aggravated by the consequences of the strict blockade imposed by Israel. More than 2 million people suffer from acute shortages of food, fuel, and medicine. The aid that is imported through Egypt is not enough to cover all needs. It is necessary to increase supply volumes. For its part, since the beginning of the crisis, Russia has transferred more than 450 tons of humanitarian supplies to the Palestinians – food, essential goods, medications. Russian special aircrafts will continue delivering humanitarian aid.

In this situation the one-sided politicized position of the United States and a number of other countries, which consistently block the efforts of Russia and those who support them in the UN Security Council, looks especially cynical. Our efforts are aimed at an immediate ceasefire and ensuring safe channels for humanitarian assistance to all those in need. The double standards of the West are obvious.

We once again call for united actions by the international community aimed at de-escalation of the situation, ceasefire and search for a political solution to the conflict. The result should be a fair solution to this long-standing problem on a well-known international legal basis, which provides for the creation of an independent Palestinian state within the 1967 borders with its capital in East Jerusalem, co-existing in peace and security with Israel.

3. Is Russia waging war with the whole world? Not at all. Russia is at war with the lies and double standards of the West. And we will win this war. We didn't start it, we are just finishing it. We ensure our national security and we will do it as we did in 1945 in Berlin.

We do not and will never recognize the rules-based world order of the West. These rules are dictated to everyone by the USA. We recognize international law and the need to call things as they are: genocide is genocide and the West's attempts to impose its stereotypes on the whole world at any cost – it is a new mental colonialism. So the point is not at all about Ukraine, but about the demolition of the unipolar world.

New challenges and threats in the context of the emerging multipolar world require the unification and consolidation of the efforts of states, the use of the intellectual and creative potential of civil society, all interested in the progressive progress of humanity.

The most important role in this process belongs to parliaments. They perform a largely stabilizing function for the entire framework of international relations, giving it the necessary flexibility and predictability.

There is a growing need for more effective use of the mechanisms of parliamentary diplomacy when discussing ways to overcome global crises and issues of regional cooperation for sustainable development. At the same time, it is important to proceed from the fact that such cooperation should remain outside of confrontational ideological and political guidelines, be built on the principles of mutual respect, equality and consideration of national interests, based on unconditional compliance with international law. In this regard, we advocate against the use at the Assembly of terminology promoted by the United States and its satellites to build a «rules-based international order ». Thus we propose to examine the texts of the draft resolutions that we adopt in the APA.

Colleagues! In September 2024 the International Forum «Development of Parliamentarism» will be held in Moscow. We are going to invite heads of parliaments from Asia, Africa and Latin America. Its main topic will be the issue of building a multipolar world and preserving traditional values.

4. Today Asia represents not only a pillar of global development and an engine of growth, but also carries significant unifying potential. Many countries included in the APA act as system-forming elements of the most important multilateral platforms, for example BRICS, SCO, and set the parameters for the development of international cooperation, creating organizations of a new type. The demand for such platforms is great.

The Asian Parliamentary Assembly plays a special role on this path. Being a unique structure that brings together parliamentarians from more than 40 countries, the APA represents not only an important dialogue mechanism for the exchange of views, experiences, ideas of peaceful development and progress, but also another effective tool in the context of the tasks of forming a Greater Eurasian Partnership.

I would like to thank you for the support of the Russian nomination to chair the APA Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs. For our part, in cooperation with the APA Secretariat, we intend to prepare a relevant and rich agenda. We will be glad to see you all at the Committee meeting in Russia.

In conclusion, I would like to wish all participants fruitful work and a successful plenary session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly.

Asian Parliamentary Assembly



The 14th Plenary Session

Baku, Azerbaijan
20-24 February 2024



Draft Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Election of the Bureau
3. Remarks by APA President, H.E. Speaker of Milli Majlis of Azerbaijan
4. Report of the Chairperson of the 2nd Executive Council
5. Report of the Secretary General on the work of the Organization
6. General Debate: Statements by Head of Delegations on "Fostering regional cooperation for sustainable development in Asia"
7. Meeting of the Standing Committees
8. Meeting of the Drafting Committee on Baku Declaration
9. Presentation of Reports by the Chairpersons of:
 - Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development
 - Standing Committee on Budget and Planning
 - Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs
 - Standing Committee on Political Affairs
10. Confirmation of the APA Vice- Presidents for 2024
11. Adoption of the APA Observer status of ASGAP
12. Adoption of the Report of 14th Plenary Session
13. Any other matter
14. Closing



2nd Executive Council Meeting

Baku, Azerbaijan
20-24 February 2024

Final Report

At the invitation of the Milli Majlis of Azerbaijan, the 2nd Executive Council (EC) meeting of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) was held on February 21, 2024, in Baku, Azerbaijan, with the participation of the following member countries:

Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Laos, Maldives, Palestine, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Thailand, Türkiye and UAE.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The draft agenda was adopted unanimously. ([Attachment I](#))

2. Election of the Bureau

The following Head of Delegations were elected as members of the Bureau by acclamation:

- Chairman: H.E. Mr. Abdulkadir Emin ÖNEN (Türkiye)
- Vice Chair: H.E. Mr. Fadli Zon (Indonesia)
- Rapporteur: H.E. Mr. A S M Feroz (Bangladesh)

3. Report of the Chairperson of the First Executive Council Meeting

H.E. Mr. Abdulkadir Emin ÖNEN, the Chair of the 2nd Executive Council presented his opening remarks and the outcome of the first Executive Council meeting. ([Attachment II](#))

4. Remarks by APA Secretary General

The Secretary General presented his remarks on the activities of the Standing Committees. ([Attachment III](#))

5. Consideration of Draft Resolutions of Standing Committees on:

Economic and Sustainable Development

The 2nd Executive Council Meeting endorsed the 7 draft resolutions presented by the 1st Executive Council and sought the final approval of the 14th Plenary.

Budget and Planning

The 2nd Executive Council approved equal payment as the model for assessed contributions.

Social and Cultural Affairs

The 2nd Executive Council endorsed the 12 draft resolutions presented by the 1st Executive Council and sought the final approval of the 14th Plenary. The draft resolution on the "Commission on Women" has been forwarded to the next meeting of the Standing Committee for further consideration.

Political Affairs

The 2nd Executive Council endorsed the draft resolution on "Asian Parliaments' Unwavering Support for the Palestinian People" and the establishment of the "Committee on Palestine." The 2nd EC sought the final approval of the 14th Plenary in this regard.

The representative of the APA Secretariat based on APA decision of 2016 requested participants to send their minor our typographical corrections to draft resolution directly to the APA Secretariat in written form to be incorporated to the relevant text which would be considered by the standing committees in the future meetings.

6. Confirmation of Nomination of Vice Presidents for 2024

The 2nd EC endorsed the nomination of Russia, Bahrain and Qatar for the positions of Vice Presidency and the Chair of the SC on Social and Cultural Affairs, SC on Economic and Sustainable Development and SC on Budget and Planning in 2024. It also endorsed the nomination of Bahrain for the Vice-Presidency and the chair of the SC on Economic and Sustainable Development for the year 2025. The 2nd EC sought the final approval of all above candidates from the 14th Plenary.

Iran and Bangladesh nominated themselves for the position of APA Vice Presidency and Chairman of the SC on Political Affairs. The Chair requests the APA Secretary General to address this issue.

7. Consideration and Adoption of Draft Agenda of 14th APA Plenary

The draft agenda of the 14th APA Plenary, proposed by the APA Secretariat was considered and approved by the 2nd Executive Council Meeting. ([Attachment IV](#))

8. Any other matters

- Several delegations addressed the catastrophic and inhuman situation in Gaza and supported the Palestinian rights.
- Delegation of Iran stated that based on what was announced during the First Executive Council meeting, we reiterated our candidacy for the APA Presidency for 2026-27 and requested this issue to be registered in the final report. The representative of the Secretariat stated that the process of addressing the next APA Presidency will start in 2025.

Asian Parliamentary Assembly



2nd Executive Council Meeting

Baku, Azerbaijan
20-24 February 2024



Draft Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Election of the Bureau
3. Report of the Chairperson of the First Executive Council Meeting
4. Remarks by APA Secretary General
5. Consideration of Draft Resolutions of Standing Committees on:
 - Economic and Sustainable Development
 - Budget and Planning
 - Social and Cultural Affairs
 - Political Affairs
6. Confirmation of Nomination of Vice Presidents for 2024
7. Consideration and Adoption of Draft Agenda of 14th APA Plenary
8. Any other matters
9. Closing

Attachment II

**SPEECH ON EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF
THE APA 14th GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR MR. CHAIRMAN OF TURKISH GROUP TO
THE APA ABDULKADİR EMİN ÖNEN**

(Baku, February 21, 2024, 14:00)

Dear Heads of Delegation,

Distinguished Members of Parliament,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am very pleased to meet you in the beautiful city of Baku, hosted by beloved Azerbaijan on the occasion of the 14th General Assembly of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly. I believe that, with the contributions of deputies from all over Asia, our Executive Council meeting will ultimately result in a productive work. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Milli Majlis of Azerbaijan and the Speaker of the Milli Majlis Ms. Sahiba Gafarova and the Head of the Azerbaijani Delegation Ms. Amina AGAZADE for hosting the meeting.

I congratulate Azerbaijan on the occasion of the early presidential elections, held on February 7. Under the leadership of President Ilham Aliyev, Azerbaijan will continue to make valuable contributions to cooperation, peace and stability in its neighborhood and throughout Asia. We are pleased to observe that Azerbaijan has emerged as a center of stability in its immediate surroundings and neighboring regions. In this respect, I believe that Azerbaijan will carry out successful work during the term presidency of the APA. The Grand National Assembly of Türkiye will continue to support Azerbaijan's term presidency of the APA in all aspects.

Distinguished Members of Parliament,

We see that international relations, whose balance and dynamics change every period, have made Asia the center of the world again in the 21st century. The importance of Asia in the global power equation is increasing day by day. The Asian continent, which stands out in science, art, culture and technology, especially in capital, is becoming a center where global diplomacy is shaped. The regional and global responsibilities of Asian countries, which direct the international system within the re-established balances, are increasing. Rising interaction between countries brings with it the need to create and expand new areas of cooperation.

The process of realizing Asia's potential highlights the role and responsibility of APA member parliaments and MPs.

While APA has become a platform where member states can discuss both their own and global problems, we must strengthen the climate of cooperation and dialogue in our assembly in order to eliminate the challenges posed by the transformation we are experiencing and take advantage of the opportunities, and increase our work to establish peace and security. In this context, developing dialogue and cooperation between different regions of Asia is of great importance to us.

Asia's position as a producer and consumer in the world economy is gradually growing. It is indispensable for development for Asia, which is rising as the center of the global economy, to strengthen its economic infrastructure with stronger transportation networks and trade relations. In this regard, measures such as the support of developed economies to developing economies throughout Asia, extending the loans provided to these countries to longer maturities and converting them into grants will strengthen Asia as a giant. Because a chain is only as strong as its weakest link. It is therefore essential that small economies are not trapped in debt, that they are not turned into open markets and that economic solidarity is strengthened.

The world, which has become a village in the 21st century, brings us closer to each other. In particular, with the development of financial networks and transportation technology, borderless ties and capital relations push countries to seek deeper cooperation. In this regard, I find it very important that our Assembly paves the way for sustainable economic development and regional cooperation.

Global warming and climate change, which no country in the world can remain indifferent to, require global cooperation and joint measures beyond regional cooperation. Measures must be taken now to solve problems that may affect Asia and all humanity in the future, such as water crises, food crises and mass migrations.

Dear Participants,

The fact that our country has held the chairmanship of the APA for a long period of seven years is an indication of the value we attach to the Assembly and a sign of the priority we attach to parliamentary diplomacy carried out on this platform. During our APA presidency,

we held many meetings, four of which were general assemblies. In that context, during our seven-year presidency, we have endeavored to make the APA more effective and more involved in international politics. Through the commissions within the APA, we have tried to determine the roadmap for the problems we face today on a global scale. We held consultations on the commissions and issues on our agenda, such as the creation of the Asian Energy Market, improving the health and working conditions of refugees, protecting women and children, and protecting cultural heritage. I would like to express with pleasure that as a result of all these studies, important steps have been taken to strengthen the institutional infrastructure of APA.

As you know, in November last year, we held the first executive council of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly for 2023 in Antalya with the participation of many delegates from 20 member countries. The opening speech was delivered by the Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye and APA Term President Mr. Numan Kurtulmuş. I consider the draft resolution regarding the "Palestine Committee", the first meeting of which was hosted by the Iranian Parliament and will be submitted to the 14th Plenary Session of the EPA for approval, as the embodiment of our unwavering support for humanitarian values, peace and the oppressed Palestinian people. In the executive council, we adopted 12 draft decisions of the permanent councils on social and cultural affairs. We have established the "Women's Commission", which I personally find very important, under item 8 of the Council's agenda, and we have decided to examine this important topic in future meetings in order to address the issue from all sides.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish God's mercy to the late Azerbaijani Deputy Ganire Pashayeva, who pioneered the establishment of the Women's Commission and contributed a lot to this issue.

The late Pashayeva has earned an indelible place in our minds and hearts as a very valuable Azerbaijani deputy sister who has contributed to important initiatives for the development of cooperation in Asia.

Distinguished Members of Parliament,

It is essential that the Assembly's budget work is completed and realized as soon as possible in order to carry out the work of the Assembly in a healthy manner.

In this framework, all members are aware of the importance of the budget mechanism that will increase the institutional capacity of our Assembly and ensure efficiency in cooperation.

I believe that steps will be taken to further strengthen the APA and ensure its institutional future under Azerbaijani hosting.

Among the issues we need to address in our plenary, Palestine and Gaza have a great priority. The human tragedy in Gaza today hurts the conscience of all humanity. The Palestinian people, whose situation worsens with each passing day and who are deprived of even their basic humanitarian needs, are being deprived of their most basic right to live. At this point, I would like to emphasize that double standards and discrimination against any civilian, regardless of society, religion or race, are unacceptable.

International humanitarian law is being violated in front of the eyes of the whole world. More than 30,000 civilians, mostly women and children, were murdered in indiscriminate attacks without any borders. The massacre of civilians without distinguishing between women, children and unarmed people amounts to genocide. Those who did not even call for a ceasefire against Israel while all this was happening, and some countries that supported Israel by using the events of October 7 as an excuse, have disgraced themselves and will go down in history with this shame. I hope that our meeting will lead to international agreement to immediately stop this human tragedy and the genocide that Israel is committing against the Palestinian people, to establish a ceasefire and to heal the wounds. I would also like it to be known that Türkiye stands by the innocent Palestinian people with its government, its people, its institutions and of course its Parliament. Despite all our efforts and efforts, the Gaza and Palestine issue has become unsolvable in the diplomatic arena due to the unilateral and favoritist attitudes of the international community, especially the US and Western countries. I hope that our meeting will lead to international agreement to immediately stop this human tragedy and the genocide that Israel is committing against the Palestinian people, to establish a ceasefire and to heal the wounds.

In conclusion, I would like to congratulate the Milli Majlis of Azerbaijan and the Honorable Speaker of the Milli Mejlis, Ms. Sahiba GAFAROVA, as the new President of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly and wish them success in the term presidency of the APA.

I salute you with wishes for peace and a prosperous life.



**Asian Parliamentary Assembly
2nd Executive Council Meeting**

**Baku, Azerbaijan
20-24 February 2024**

Opening Remarks by H.E. Dr. Mohammad Reza Majidi

APA Secretary General

**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is with a sense of profound respect and warm greetings that I welcome all the esteemed participants and honourable guests of the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan to this significant gathering in the capital city of Baku.

We are indeed fortunate to convene under the generous hospitality of the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan, particularly the commendable efforts of H.E. Sahiba Gafarova, the Speaker of the Milli Majlis, and the devoted members of the APA Group of the Parliament of Azerbaijan.

Their steadfast dedication to organizing the 2nd APA Executive Council Meeting and the 14th APA Plenary Session is deeply appreciated.

I am also honoured to express our collective gratitude for the remarkable leadership and vision demonstrated by the APA President, Türkiye, over the past six years. Their guidance has undoubtedly been instrumental in enhancing APA's active engagement across various international and regional platforms.

As we look ahead to the next two years under the extended stewardship of the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan, we are eager to see further progress in our collective endeavours. On this auspicious occasion, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Parliament of Azerbaijan as the incoming APA President. I assure you that the APA Permanent Secretariat will be fully committed to supporting the objectives of the APA and working collaboratively under the guidance of the new President and Vice Presidents.

**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,**

This Executive Council meeting is of great importance as it marks the final meeting chaired by the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye in its capacity as APA President.

I am pleased to report our collective success in executing the programs planned for 2023, which stands as a testament to the effective collaboration under the leadership of the 13th APA Plenary President and its Vice-Presidents from Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Iran, and Iraq.

Based on the agreed schedule, the APA held meetings of the Standing Committees and the 2nd Session of the Working Group on Statutory Documents in 2023.

At the first session of the Executive Council on November 27-28, 2023, in Antalya, Türkiye, the EC endorsed the seven draft resolutions adopted by the SC on Economic and Sustainable Development. The EC also approved the Equal Payment as the Model of Assessed Contribution, which was presented by the SC on Budget and Planning, along with the 12 draft resolutions of the SC on Social and Cultural Affairs. The draft resolution on "Asian Parliaments' Unwavering Support for the Palestinian People" and the "Baghdad Final Communique on Palestine" of the SC on Political Affairs was also approved by the 1st Executive Committee in Antalya.

The first EC also decided to establish a "Committee on Palestine." During the informal gathering of this Committee, Iran proposed hosting the first meeting in Iran. The meeting took place on January 10, 2024, in Tehran, where the "Final Communique on the Current Situation in Palestine" was unanimously adopted.

At the first EC, the parliaments of Russia, Bahrain, and Qatar were nominated for the positions of Vice Presidency and to host and chair the Standing Committees on Social and Cultural Affairs, Economic and Sustainable Development, Budget and Planning. Thus, by the endorsement of the 14th Plenary, we are in a position to schedule the timetable for the four Standing Committees for 2024.

**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,**

It is a great honor to witness the unanimous endorsement of the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan for the 2024-2025 term as the APA President. This momentous occasion in the historic city of Baku not only celebrates the Azerbaijan Presidency but also symbolizes our confidence in their ability to advance the noble objectives of the APA through skilled parliamentary diplomacy.

I extend my sincere thanks to everyone for your attentive participation and look forward to our continued collaboration towards our shared goals.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.

Asian Parliamentary Assembly



The 14th Plenary Session

Baku, Azerbaijan
20-24 February 2024



Draft Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Election of the Bureau
3. Remarks by APA President, H.E. Speaker of Milli Majlis of Azerbaijan
4. Report of the Chairperson of the 2nd Executive Council
5. Report of the Secretary General on the work of the Organization
6. General Debate: Statements by Head of Delegations on "Fostering regional cooperation for sustainable development in Asia"
7. Meeting of the Standing Committees
8. Meeting of the Drafting Committee on Baku Declaration
9. Presentation of Reports by the Chairpersons of:
 - Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development
 - Standing Committee on Budget and Planning
 - Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs
 - Standing Committee on Political Affairs
10. Confirmation of the APA Vice- Presidents for 2024
11. Adoption of the APA Observer status of ASGAP
12. Adoption of the Report of 14th Plenary Session
13. Any other matter
14. Closing



Asian Parliamentary Assembly 14th Plenary Session

**Baku, Azerbaijan
20-24 February 2024**

Report by the Secretary General on the work of the Organization

**Madam President,
Honorable speakers,
Esteemed Delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

It brings me immense joy and privilege, as the Secretary-General, to extend a warm welcome to all distinguished attendees of the 14th Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly in Baku, the vibrant heart of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

It is an honour and privilege to convene the 14th session of the APA Plenary under the esteemed leadership of H.E. Sahiba Gafarova, the revered Speaker of the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

On this momentous occasion Madam President, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to you and the Parliament of Azerbaijan for assuming the APA presidency, and I assure you of the unwavering support of the Permanent Secretariat throughout your term of presidency.

I am also honoured to express our collective gratitude for the remarkable leadership and vision demonstrated by the outgoing APA President, Türkiye, during the three terms of her presidency. Their guidance has undoubtedly been instrumental in enhancing APA's active engagement across various international and regional stages.

**Madam President,
Honorable speakers,
Esteemed Delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

The theme of our 14th Plenary Session, "Fostering Regional Cooperation for Sustainable Development in Asia," underscores our commitment to addressing the critical issue of sustainable development within the APA Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development. Hence, I am eager to begin and present my report on the work of the organization on the sustainable development endeavours:

- **SC on Economic and Sustainable Development.**

Yesterday, at the 2nd Executive Council meeting, we endorsed all seven draft resolutions adopted by the first EC meeting in November 2023 in Antalya, Türkiye. These resolutions cover pivotal issues such as Asian energy market, promoting economic growth, eradicating poverty, achieving Sustainable Development Goals, enhancing water and sanitation across Asia, launching the Asian Climate Financial Initiative, and addressing environmental challenges.

Given the fundamental nature of these issues to all APA members, we anticipate that under Azerbaijan's leadership, APA will intensify its engagement with critical environmental, climate change, and economic growth challenges to forge a unified stance.

- **SC on Budget and Planning**

On Budget and Planning, during the July 2023 SC meeting in Tehran, Iran, we reached a consensus on the Assessed Contribution model for equitable payments, deferring the final contribution amounts to the First Executive Council meeting in Antalya. Diverse opinions on contribution scales and amount were deliberated, and it was decided that the APA Secretariat's 2024 budget estimation would guide the final contribution determinations. The estimated 2024 budget, presented at this 14th plenary session, necessitates thorough discussion and finalization at the upcoming SC meeting in Doha, Qatar.

Resolving the longstanding issue of financial contributions from all APA member countries remains crucial, and we are hopeful for a consensus at the next SC meeting in Doha.

- **SC on Social and Cultural Affairs**

Regarding Social and Cultural Affairs, the 2nd EC ratified 12 draft resolutions from the SC on Social and Cultural Affairs. The draft resolution on establishing a "Commission on Women" was deferred for further examination at the next SC meeting, highlighting the importance of this initiative.

Our discussions in this committee, encompass a wide array of topics, including cultural diversity, heritage, ICT, health equity, anti-corruption, women parliamentarians, interfaith dialogue, cultural item smuggling, illicit drug trafficking, aging societies, human development, and tourism cooperation.

The extensive range of topics on the agenda of this SC demonstrates the importance of social and cultural affairs for the member parliaments of the APA.

- **SC on Political Affairs**

In the realm of Political Affairs, our resolutions cover good governance, Rule of Law, Judicial Empowerment, fostering prosperity through friendship, democratic development, and the promotion of multilateralism.

Given the dire situation in the Gaza Strip and the whole occupied Palestinian territories and the brutal violation of all international humanitarian laws and genocidal war waged by the Zionist entity against Palestinian People, the SC on Political Affairs, during its November 2023 meeting in Baghdad, Iraq, chose to

focus exclusively on the draft Resolution on "Asian Parliaments' Unwavering Support for the Palestinian People." This decision, reaffirmed at the first Executive Council meeting in Antalya, Türkiye, alongside the "Baghdad Final Communique on Palestine," underscores our solidarity with the Palestinian people.

The subsequent establishment of a "Committee on Palestine" and its inaugural meeting in Tehran, Iran, on January 10, 2024, where the "Final Communique on the Current Situation in Palestine" was unanimously adopted, marks a significant milestone. At the same time, the endorsement of the "Committee on Palestine" and its operational framework by the 14th Plenary is imperative.

The Palestinian cause will continue to be a priority for the APA in 2024 and it should closely be monitored by the organization.

**Madam President,
Honorable speakers,
Esteemed Delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

In addition to the SC's activities, I would like to highlight a few other noteworthy events:

1. Working Group on Statutory Documents

The first EC meeting in Antalya included a briefing by the Secretariate on the 2nd Session of this Working Group, convened in Tehran on July 11, 2023. Kuwait expressed interest in hosting the forthcoming session of the WG, a proposal that received the EC's endorsement. We are yet to receive a detailed arrangements on the important WG meeting.

2. APA Observer status

During the same EC meeting, the Association of Secretaries General of Arab Parliaments sought APA observer status. This application was approved, with a recommendation for approval at the 14th Plenary Session.

3. Vice- Presidents for 2024

It's my pleasure and privilege to announce that at the first EC meeting, nominations were made for Vice Presidency and Chairs of the SCs for 2024, including Social and Cultural Affairs, Economic and Sustainable Development, Budget and Planning, and Political Affairs. I extend my congratulations and gratitude to the nominees from the Russian Federation, the Kingdom of Bahrain, the Kingdom of Qatar, and the Republic of Iraq for their dedication to advancing the APA's mission.

Looking forward, with the Republic of Azerbaijan's Milli Majlis continuing as APA President, alongside our experienced Vice-Presidents, we are poised for significant progress in our collective endeavours over the next two years.

Thank you all for your support and attention

Attachment VII

Speech Note on the Plenary Session of the 14th Plenary Session of the APA for Chairman of Turkish Group to the APA Mr. Abdulkadir Emin ÖNEN

Distinguished Representatives of APA Member Countries,

Distinguished Participants,

I am very happy to meet with you in Baku, one of the most valuable pearls in the west of Asia. I would like to thank the National Assembly of Azerbaijan for hosting our meeting at a high level and welcoming us in the best way. I wish Azerbaijan success in their term presidency. I believe that under the term presidency of the Milli Majlis and its Honorable Speaker Ms. Sahiba GAFAROVA, the work of the APA will continue to gain momentum. Türkiye will continue its determined support to Azerbaijan's term presidency and work of the APA.

I congratulate Azerbaijan on the early presidential elections held on February 7th. Under the leadership of President Ilham Aliyev, Azerbaijan's valuable contributions to cooperation, peace and stability in its immediate surroundings and throughout Asia will continue.

Our Plenary has convened with a very important agenda. Regional cooperation and sustainable development are two very important concepts. Over the past 30 years, the disconnects created by the Cold War-era balances throughout the world have largely been eliminated. Developments in transportation and communication networks have made the world smaller. Despite this, we can say that cooperation and integration in many regions and throughout Asia remain below the required level. Regional cooperation and rapprochement can contribute to countries overcoming many obstacles they face on the path to development and economic growth.

"Sustainable development" is a very comprehensive concept. It is one of the 21st century's most important global issues and actually points to the core of global problems. The United Nations sustainable development goals cover a wide range of issues and areas, from hunger to poverty, education to health, climate crisis to peace, and energy to urbanization. Thus, it is aimed to improve the minimum living conditions of all humanity in a healthy and prosperous world and to have a better future for the world. These goals are of course valuable and meaningful for all of us.

Today, it is not possible to say that Asia has fully realized its potential. Asia has tremendous wealth in terms of underground and aboveground resources. The natural riches that exist all over Asia are a gift from God for humanity. We are obliged to increase this wealth without consuming it and to pass it on to future generations in the best possible way. We must observe this sensitivity while benefiting from natural resources and striving for economic development through industrial and infrastructure investments. Human beings and nature

are our greatest treasure and no other wealth can give us back our world. From industrial plants to mining sites, the principle of sustainability must be applied in every field.

We can build a fair and sustainable development path with an understanding that puts people at the center but does not exclude nature and the world. In this respect, regional solidarity and cooperation need to be developed with a new understanding. National borders are not an obstacle to economic cooperation, trade and investment. However, international cooperation must always be based on a fair basis to ensure that the wealth of countries lagging behind in the development race is not exploited by other interests.

The United Nations, which constitutes the core of today's world order, can be inadequate at many points. The fact that five countries have the unquestioned right of veto can block many processes. For this reason, we defend the principle of "the world is bigger than five" for a fairer world and we express this on every ground.

Distinguished members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

In the current century, Asia is moving step by step towards becoming the center of the world again. The total economic size of Asian countries accounts for a third of the global economy. This size shows that the heart of the world, both as a producer and a consumer, beats in Asia. Depending on manpower, natural resources and economic growth, the weight of Asia in the global power equation is increasing every year. Stability and peace are essential to ensure the continuity of this growth and development. Unfortunately, in recent months, one of the greatest tragedies the world has seen has been taking place in Palestine, on one side of Asia. The problem in Palestine is partly political and partly humanitarian. Solving political problems can be the subject of long discussions and take time, but the humanitarian aspect needs to be solved immediately. It is an urgent necessity to stop the conflict and deliver humanitarian aid. A solution for permanent peace in the region must then be found and should not be left to an uncertain future. Permanent peace can be achieved in the region with Israel's withdrawal to the 1967 borders and the establishment and recognition of the Palestinian state. The ongoing conflict appears to be one-sided, and the horrific civilian casualties resulting from indiscriminate targeting of civilians are a shame for humanity and the entire world.

As representatives of the parliaments of Asian countries, we must make every effort to end this crisis. International humanitarian law is being violated in front of the eyes of the whole world. The steps we will take to end this massacre, which Europe has largely turned its back on and ignored, will once again remind the whole world that high human values are not under anyone's monopoly. At this point, I would like to emphasize that Türkiye stands by the Palestinian people with its government and people.

As I conclude my remarks, I wish peace and tranquility to prevail in every corner of Asia and the world, and I greet you with respect.



مملكة البحرين
الشعب البرلمانية

Parliamentary Group
of the Kingdom of Bahrain

كلمة
/ سعادة النائب أحمد صباح السلوم
نائب رئيس وفد مملكة البحرين
نائب رئيس الجمعية البرلمانية الآسيوية
رئيس لجنة الشؤون الاقتصادية والتنمية المستدامة

باكو - جمهورية أذربيجان

20 - 24 فبراير 2024

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

الحمد لله، والصلاة والسلام على أشرف الخلق والمرسلين، سيدنا محمد وعلى آله وصحبه أجمعين..

معالي البروفسورة الدكتورة، صاحبة غافاروفا.. رئيسة الجمعية الوطنية بجمهورية أذربيجان.. رئيسة الجمعية البرلمانية الآسيوية..

أصحاب المعالي والسعادة، رؤساء وأعضاء المجالس والبرلمانات، والوفود المشاركة..

سعادة الدكتور، محمد رضا مجيدي .. الأمين العام للجمعية البرلمانية الآسيوية..

الأخوة والأخوات، الحضور الكرام..

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته،،

معالي الرئيسة،،

بداية.. أود أن أنقل لكم، تحيات معالي السيد أحمد بن سلمان المسلم رئيس مجلس النواب، رئيس اللجنة التنفيذية للشعبة البرلمانية، وتمنياته الصادقة بالنجاح والتوفيق، للجلسة العامة الـ 14 للجمعية البرلمانية الآسيوية، ومؤكدا دعم مملكة البحرين للنتائج والتوصيات التي ستقرها الجمعية.

كما أود أن أتقدم بخالص الشكر التقدير، إلى معالي الدكتور نعمان كورتولموش، رئيس الجمعية الوطنية الكبرى بجمهورية تركيا، على جهوده المتميزة خلال رئاسة الجمعية البرلمانية الآسيوية في الدورة الماضية.

ومعربا عن بالغ امتناني واعتزازي، بثقة جمعيتكم الموقرة، في تزكيتي نائبا لرئيس الجمعية الآسيوية، ورئيس لجنة الشؤون الاقتصادية والتنمية المستدامة، للسنتين 2024 - 2025، وذلك للمرة الثانية على

التوالي، تأكيداً لتقديركم لجهود الشعبة البرلمانية في مملكة البحرين، وإسهاماتها في العمل البرلماني الآسيوي.

الحضور الكرام،،

إن حديثنا اليوم عن "تعزيز التعاون الإقليمي من أجل التنمية المستدامة في آسيا"، هو حديث بالغ الأهمية، يستوجب منا جميعاً، دعم كافة الجهود الرامية لتحقيق هذا الهدف، وفق رؤية برلمانية آسيوية موحدة.

وإن مملكة البحرين، وفي ظل القيادة الحكيمة من لدن حضرة صاحب الجلالة الملك حمد بن عيسى آل خليفة ملك البلاد المعظم حفظه الله ورعاه، ودعم ومتابعة صاحب السمو الملكي الأمير سلمان بن حمد آل خليفة ولي العهد رئيس مجلس الوزراء حفظه الله، تضع ضمن أولويات العلاقات الدبلوماسية الخارجية، تعزيز التعاون مع دول المجموعة الآسيوية، وتمضي قدماً، وبخطوات راسخة ومدروسة، ومنهجية رائدة، في تعزيز التعاون الإقليمي من أجل التنمية المستدامة، عبر خطط استراتيجية تنموية، ومشاريع ومبادرات وبرامج نوعية، خاصة في مجال التعاون الاقتصادي والاستثماري، وزيادة التبادل التجاري، وفتح آفاق رحبة من التعاون في مختلف المسارات.

وفي سبتمبر الماضي، شاركت مملكة البحرين في الاجتماع الوزاري الثامن عشر، لحوار التعاون الآسيوي، حيث أعدت ورقة مفاهيمية حول "التعافي المستدام لما بعد الجائحة"، والتي تحدد إطار التعافي المستدام، وتم اعتماد الوثيقة الختامية للاجتماع "إعلان البحرين"، التي تهدف إلى توطيد العلاقات بين الدول الأعضاء.

كما وحقت مملكة البحرين نتائج ملموسة في كافة أهداف التنمية المستدامة، حيث بلغت نسبة تغطية إمدادات مياه الشرب الآمنة نسبة 100%، وتم اطلاق الاستراتيجية الوطنية للمياه 2030، وتعزيز الشراكة مع القطاع الخاص، وتشجيع القطاع الزراعي، كما تم تدشين استراتيجية لقطاع الاتصالات وتكنولوجيا المعلومات والاقتصاد الرقمي، واعتماد سياسة الحوسبة السحابية، بجانب إطلاق العديد من البرامج والحلول السكنية الملائمة والمستدامة التي وفرتها مملكة البحرين للمواطنين.

كما تم الإعلان عن استهداف مملكة البحرين بالوصول للحياض الصفري في العام 2060، بهدف مواجهة تحديات التغير المناخي وحماية البيئة. حيث باشرت مملكة البحرين عملية تخفيض الانبعاثات، بالتوازي مع جهودها نحو تنمية الاقتصاد الوطني في إطار رؤية البحرين الاقتصادية 2030، من خلال وضع النمو النظيف والأخضر والمستدام، كمرتكزات رئيسية فيها. وبذلك، ستتبنى بلادي، اقتصادًا دائريًا للكربون، مدعومًا بخطط تحييد مختلفة، تشمل على سبيل المثال لا الحصر: تقنية احتجاز الكربون، والتشجير.

الحضور الكرام،،

أن "تعزيز التعاون الإقليمي من أجل التنمية المستدامة في آسيا"، لن يكتب له النجاح الكامل، ولن يتحقق بشكل مستدام وشامل، إلا من خلال الأمن والاستقرار في المنطقة، وحمايتها من آثار وتداعيات الحروب والأزمات والنزاعات.

ولعل ما يتابعه العالم اليوم من مأساة إنسانية تطال الشعب الفلسطيني الشقيق، جراء الانتهاكات الإسرائيلية المستمرة، والتصعيد المخالف للقانون الدولي الإنساني، يمثل الحاجة الماسة والضرورية لوقف الحرب، وتوفير الضمانات والمساعدات اللازمة للشعب الفلسطيني الشقيق.

ومشيرا في هذا السياق، إلى موقف مملكة البحرين الثابت في دعم القضية الفلسطينية، وحقوق الشعب الفلسطيني في إقامة دولته المستقلة، وعاصمتها القدس الشرقية، وفقا لحل الدولتين، والتزاما بالقرارات الدولية.

وإن مملكة البحرين ماضية في تعظيم مكتسباتها التنموية والحضارية، ودورها الفاعل في تعزيز التعاون الإقليمي والدولي، من أجل عالم تسوده قيم التعايش والتسامح، والأخوة والتضامن، من أجل خير الإنسانية، وبناء مستقبل زاهر للأجيال القادمة.

كما أود أن أشير في هذا السياق، أن مملكة البحرين اليوم على بعد ست سنوات من استكمال مستهدفات رؤية البحرين الاقتصادية 2030، والتي تحقق منها الكثير بفضل إسهامات فريق البحرين الواحد بكافة أعضائه.

وانطلاقاً مما تم تحقيقه من المستهدفات، وبتوجيه كريم من حضرة صاحب الجلالة ملك البلاد المعظم حفظه الله ورعاه، لكل ما هو أفضل حاضراً ومستقبلاً للوطن وكافة مواطنيه، فقد وجه صاحب السمو الملكي ولي العهد رئيس مجلس الوزراء حفظه الله بالبدء في إجراء مشاورات مع السلطة التشريعية والقطاع الخاص والجمعيات المهنية ومؤسسات المجتمع المدني، لصياغة رؤية البحرين الاقتصادية 2050، وذلك في إطار الحرص بأن تعكس الرؤية طموحات وتطلعات المجتمع، على أن يُستكمل هذا العمل بإطلاق الرؤية قبل نهاية العام الجاري.

كما وجه سموه إلى الاستمرار في قياس وتقييم ما تحقق على صعيد تنفيذ رؤية البحرين الاقتصادية 2030، مع مواصلة العمل على تنفيذ ما تضمنته الرؤية من مستهدفات تحقق الخير والنماء للوطن وتطلعات أبناء الوطن الكرام.

وأعرب سموه عن التطلع بكل تفاؤل وحبٍ للتحدي وعشقٍ للإنجاز، بأن تكون رؤية البحرين الاقتصادية 2050، منطلقاً للاستمرار في مسيرة الخير والازدهار والنهضة المباركة لمملكة البحرين، التي نفخر دوماً بأنها موطن الريادة والإنجاز، وواحة الأمان والتعايش.

ختاماً،،

أتقدم وباسم وفد مملكة البحرين، بخالص الشكر والتقدير، إلى معالي البروفسورة الدكتورة، صاحبة غافاروفا، رئيسة الجمعية الوطنية بجمهورية أذربيجان، على ما لمسناه من حسن الضيافة والاستقبال.. كما نشكر جهود الأمانة العامة في الجمعية الوطنية بجمهورية أذربيجان، والأمانة العامة للجمعية البرلمانية الآسيوية، على الإعداد الرائع والتنسيق المتميز للاجتماع.

والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته..

Attachment VIII

Asian Parliamentary Assembly
14th Plenary Session
BAKU DECLARATION (24 February 2024)

We, Members of Parliaments of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) who attended the 14th Plenary Session of APA in Baku from 20 February to 24 February 2024, upon the invitation of H.E. Sahiba GAFAROVA, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Azerbaijan and President of APA:

Representing the nations in Asia, which has been the birthplace of earliest civilizations and mainstream religions and home to the majority of the world's population;

Valuing deep rooted historical, economic, social, cultural and political bonds among peoples in Asia, strengthened by their rich diversities;

Recognizing the great achievements, the peoples in Asia have made in the fields of socio-economic development, science and technology, and their enormous potential to grow further for playing a decent role in world's politics and global economics;

Being guided by the system of international relations that is based on dialogue, cooperation, and respect to the principles of international law, *inter alia*, respect for the sovereign equality and territorial integrity of states and non-interference in their internal affairs;

Underlining the importance of parliamentary diplomacy in maintaining peace, security, stability in the world and in enhancing trust, cooperation and solidarity among nations;

Expressing willingness to advance interstate relations and foster regional cooperation in political, economic, commercial, social, environmental, healthcare, cultural, educational fields, including by strengthening inter-parliamentary dialogue in Asia;

Stressing the need for expanding parliamentary support for women empowerment and more active involvement of women and youth in the decision-making processes;

Rejecting any form of discrimination, racism, xenophobia or Islamophobia and reiterating their commitment to protection and promotion of core human values;

Recognizing that tolerance and mutual respect are the fundamental values of humanity, which entail promotion of cultural heritage and diversity, culture of peace, and dialogue among civilizations;

Concerned by the increasing tensions in parts of Asia, the threat of terrorism and the suffering of people affected by ongoing conflicts, especially displaced people, emphasizing that terrorism should not be associated with any culture, civilization, religion or ethnicity and should be condemned in all its forms and manifestations;

Expressing deep concern at the dire and rapidly deteriorating humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip, and emphasizing that civilian populations must be protected in accordance with international humanitarian law,

Urging all parties to prioritize the protection of civilians and infrastructure while refraining from any actions that could exacerbate the situation and further endanger the lives of innocent people, as well as respect the sanctity of religious sites;

Being aware of the adverse impacts of climate change and realizing the importance and urgency for effective means of implementation and climate finance that is affordable, accessible, transparent and inclusive across the climate agenda;

Reiterating our resolve to pursue Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations for the year 2030 and to improve their implementation, especially in the priority areas;

Emphasizing the importance of economic convergence and interconnectivity among our countries for improving economic and social welfare of the population;

Hereby,

Reaffirm our commitment to the Charter of the United Nations and universally recognized norms and principles of international law and the objectives and principles enshrined in the Charter of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, in particular those concerning the maintenance of international peace and security;

Underline the utmost importance of inter-parliamentary relations to develop multidimensional and comprehensive cooperation;

Propose enhancing partnership and generating synergies with other regional and international parliamentary mechanisms to promote common interests and address emerging challenges;

Emphasize the need to promote peace in Asia through peaceful resolutions of ongoing conflicts and underscore the importance of safe and dignified return of displaced person as a result of conflicts;

Condemn and call to an immediate end of crimes against palestinian people and immediate withdrawal of Israeli forces and the siege and releasing all prisoners;

Reaffirm call for immediate, permanent cessation of hostilities in the Gaza Strip and underline the urgent need for humanitarian access and delivery of relief aid to civilians, especially children, women and the elderly and support the ICJ call on immediate ceasefire;

Reiterate support for establishment of an independent and sovereign State of Palestine as outlined in the relevant UN resolutions in accordance with the international law and the right of return of refugees;

Emphasize the important role of APA, including the newly APA's Committee on Palestine, to assist in resolving humanitarian crisis in Gaza, through effective

implementation of parliamentary diplomacy, and conduct special mission to Rafah to oversee the humanitarian situation in Palestine,

Reject categorically any foreign plans/initiatives regarding the future of Palestine and post-war Gaza which are the absolute rights of the Palestinian people,

Call on all Member Parliaments to urge their respective governments to exert a comprehensive economic pressure on Israel for its systematic grave human rights violations against the Palestinians,

Enhance efforts and cooperation to prevent and counter terrorism, money-laundering, illicit drug trafficking and organized crimes and cyber crimes;

Determine to encourage and promote further intercultural dialogue and inter-religious exchanges throughout Asia, in this regard, call for active engagement in Baku Process and Peace4culture Global Campaign;

Encourage APA Member Parliaments to ensure the inclusion and effective participation of women in political decision-making and in social, cultural, economic development affairs in Asia at all levels, also to facilitate active youth engagement in their communities;

Continue efforts for strengthening the rule of law in all its aspects and for promotion of good governance which are indispensable for achieving inclusive economic, social and institutional development;

Recommit ourselves to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and urge APA Member Parliaments to uphold Parliamentary Diplomacy as an instrument to improve the implementation of SDG's in general and APA priorities including, climate action and environmental protection, water resource management, poverty eradication, economic growth and sustainable and resilient energy markets in Asia;

Underline the significance of fostering economic relations and trade channels to strengthen regional interconnectivity and support regional transport and digital connectivity projects;

Call upon Asian parliaments to adopt new policy approaches to develop a more comprehensive and innovative growth strategies needed to sustain a more resilient, balanced, sustainable and inclusive economic growth;

Develop a strategic vision and the targeted policies in cooperation with Member Parliaments and their governments regarding poverty eradication;

Emphasize the importance of renewable and low-emission energy and energy-efficiency in achieving sustainable development and support improving alternative energy resources and use of environment-friendly substances;

Call on APA Member Parliaments to urge their respective governments to implement

projects and programmes in line with their commitments as mentioned in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in compliance with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Paris Agreement as appropriate and to intensify qualitative environmental actions in response to climate change;

Commend the role of State of Qatar by hosting Asian football championship 2023 which supports culture, sports and youth which has contributed to strengthening a sport diplomacy and creating bridges of communication between peoples of Asia;

Commend United Arab Emirates on successful hosting of the 2023 UNFCCC COP28 and welcome Azerbaijan as the host of COP29 to be held on November 11-22, 2024 in Baku;

Express gratitude to Azerbaijan for its warm, gracious and efficient hospitality in hosting the Fourteenth Plenary session of the APA in Baku.



Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development

Baku, Azerbaijan
20-24 February 2024

Final Report

The Meeting of the Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development was held on February 22, 2024, and chaired by the Head of delegation of the Council of Representatives of the Kingdom of Bahrain H.E. Mr. Ahmed Alsalloom.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The participants adopted the Draft Agenda unanimously. ([Attachment I](#))

2. Opening Remarks by the Chairperson:

H.E Mr. Ahmed Alsalloom, welcomed participants and expressed hope that this meeting would constructively address the important topics under its consideration.

3. Report of the Secretariat:

The Representative of APA Secretariat presented a summary report on the latest activities of the Standing Committee. He also referred to the APA decision of 2016 on "deliberations in EC and Plenary" and stated that at this meeting only technical comments or editorial corrections in the draft resolutions will be entertained. He requested participants to present their substantive amendments to the relevant Standing Committee in future.

4. Consideration of the Draft Resolution recommended by the Executive Council:

Under this agenda item 7 draft resolutions were considered. The participants presented few minor editorials/corrections which were incorporated into relevant draft resolutions. A few major comments/amendments were presented. The chair

requested the concerned delegations to forward them in written form to the APA Secretariat for future consideration by the SC.

5. Any other matters:

No issue was raised.

Asian Parliamentary Assembly



Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development

Baku, Azerbaijan
20-24 February 2024



Draft Agenda

- 1- Adoption of the Agenda
- 2- Opening Remarks by Chairperson
- 3- Report of the Secretariat
- 4- Consideration of Draft Resolutions recommended by the 2nd Executive Council
- 5- Any other matters.



Standing Committee on Budget & Planning

Baku, Azerbaijan
20-24 February 2024

Final Report

The Meeting of the Standing Committee on Budget and Planning was held on February 22, 2024, and chaired by H.E. Mr. Abolfazl Amouei MP of Islamic Parliament of Iran.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Member Parliaments unanimously adopted the Draft Agenda. ([Attachment I](#))

2. Opening Remarks by the Chairperson:

H.E. Mr. Abolfazl Amouei, the Chairman of the meeting, welcomed the participants and expressed hope that this meeting would constructively address the important topics under its consideration.

3. Report of the Secretariat:

The Secretariat stated that: during the SC meeting held on July 10-11, 2023, in Tehran, Iran, it was agreed that equal payment would serve as the model for Assessed Contribution. The final decision on the contribution amount was deferred to the First Executive Council Meeting. The report for APA budget estimate of 2024 was presented by the Secretariat. It was proposed that the estimated budget Plus the principal of equal payments of assessed contribution would be the two major items for the upcoming standing committee on budget and planning to consider.

4. Consideration of the Draft Resolution recommended by the Executive Council:

Under this agenda item the representative of APA Secretariat explained that the only draft resolution under the consideration of this standing committee is a draft resolution which expresses the gratitude to the parliament of Iran for financial support that they have provided to APA during past years. It was also mentioned that the major items of the APA budget should be categorized and APA Secretary General is responsible for its implementation.

Participants addressed the estimated budget for 2024 ([Attachment II](#)) and the issue of equal payment as well as estimation for the assessed contribution. It was mentioned that 22,000\$ up to 50,000\$ maybe considered by member states as fixed amount for assessed contribution. It was also indicated that there should be a linkage between the amount of assessed contribution as well as the issue of equal rights. The representative of APA Secretariat stated that this issues should be addressed in details once we attend the next standing committee meeting on budget and planning in Qatar.

The chair concluded that while adopting the only draft resolutions under the consideration of this standing committee, the participants are requested to take into account and study the proposed budget estimate for 2024 as well as issues of equal payments and equal rights for the next Standing Committee meeting on Budget and Planning.

5. Any other matters:

No issue was raised.

(Attachment I)

Asian Parliamentary Assembly



Standing Committee on Budget & Planning

Baku, Azerbaijan
20-24 February 2024



Draft Agenda

- 1- Adoption of the Agenda
- 2- Opening Remarks by Chairperson
- 3- Report of the Secretariat
- 4- Consideration of Draft Resolution recommended by 2nd Executive Council
- 5- Any other matters.

Attachment II



APA Budget Estimate – 2024

Restricted to APA Members

1/1/2024 by APA Secretariat

No.	Description	Expenses/year
1	Basic budget	673,000\$
2	Additional budget	280,000\$
3	Emergency budget	32,000\$
Total		985,000\$

Remarks:

- 1) This Draft Budget is modified based on the discussions and proposals of the Standing Committee on Budget and Planning in Abu-Dhabi 22-23 May 2017 and was offered for consideration of the same Committee in Baghdad 2019 (but was not addressed in detail by participants in the meeting). The average inflation rates of 8% upto 2024 are applied. (Inflation note: 2022= 4.4% 2023=3.6%)
- 2) Although the figures shown in the tables above are to our best of estimates, but the document, in its entirety, is a symbolic one and should be revisited once the “ Assessed Contribution “ scheme is adopted at the APA Plenary level.
- 3) APA Budget will be valid and applied whenever the Member Parliaments pay their assessed contributions one year before.
- 4) The monitoring and inspection system will be applied to the budget based on items 16 & 17 of the Financial & Staff Regulations, which was adopted in the Plenary of 2014.

The Construction of the Budget:

APA Budget is divided into three categories:

1. Basic Budget Items: 68.3%
2. Additional Budget Items: 28.4%
3. Emergency Budget Item: 3.28%

Basic Budget Items

NO	Description	Expenses/year
1	Salaries (Table 1)	576,000
2	Office Expenses (Table 2)	58000
3	Operational Expenses (Table 3)	39000
Total		673,000

Table 1- Salaries

	Nature of expenses	Secretary General	DSG	ASG	Expert	Admin Staff	Support service	Total
	Number of Personnel	1	1	3	4	4	5	18
1	Salary	7020	5400	4320	2160	1080	648	
2	Benefits (health care ...)	1080	756	540	324	216	162	
3	Monthly Payment	8100	6156	14580	9936	5184	4050	
4	Annual Payment	97200	73872	174960	119232	62208	48600	576000

Table 2 - Office Expenses

No	Nature of expenses	Per Year
1	Vehicle (for the first year)	32000
2	Office supplies(for the first year)	26000
Total		58000

Table 3 - Operational expenses

No	Nature of Expenses		Per Month	Per Year
1	Building Maintenance	Utilities(water- power- gas- telephone)	1620	19000
		Repair and Renovation	1620	20000
2	APA Headquarters Rent(\$ 1/per month)			12
3	Secretary-General's Residence & other staff's housing allowance			-
Total				39000

Additional Budget Items

1 - Travel Average Expenses (36 / Persons / Trip/Year)	Round Trip Air Ticket (3 tickets/ month)	6480	78000
	Hotel Fare (3 Persons / five nights/ \$250per night)	4050	49000
	Meals (3 Persons /six days/ \$100per day)	1944	23000
	Per-diem (3 persons/\$350 per day)	6804	82000
2- Receptions	3 Receptions for 50 guests (\$100 Per Person)		16000
	One Reception for 200 guests (\$150 Per Person)		32000
Total			280,000

Emergency Budget Item

Unforeseen Expenditures	32000
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Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs

Baku, Azerbaijan
20-24 February 2024

Final Report

The Meeting of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs was held on February 23, 2024, and chaired by H.E. Mr. Vugar Bayramov MP of the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Member Parliaments unanimously adopted the Draft Agenda. ([Attachment I](#))

2. Opening Remarks by the Chairperson

H.E. Mr. Vugar Bayramov the Chairperson of the meeting, welcomed the participants and expressed hope that this meeting would constructively address the important topics under its consideration.

He stated that: the first Executive Council meeting approved the 12 draft resolutions adopted by the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs during its meeting on September 21-22, 2023, in Baku, Azerbaijan. Two draft resolutions on "Tourism" were merged into a new text. Two draft resolutions on the "Rights of Migrant Workers" and "Humanitarian Aid," which had been deferred twice, were decided not to be considered. The Executive Council endorsed the proposal of the Standing Committee in this regard.

The draft resolution on the "Commission on Women" was considered under the Agenda Item 8 of the Executive Council. There was an extensive discussion on this draft resolution, and the chair concluded that the fruitful contributions of the

participants regarding the establishment of a Commission on Women were indicative of its importance for APA. This important topic needs to be further scrutinized and discussed from every aspect. Therefore, it would be expected to receive more amendments for consideration in future meetings.

3. Report of the Secretariat

The representative of APA Secretariat confirmed the summary report presented by the chair on the latest activities of Standing Committee.

4. Consideration of the situation of Women Parliamentarians in Asia

Under this agenda item the following delegations expressed their views:

- Indonesia referred to the status of women parliamentarians and stated that they have an objective of 30% of the women in the parliament. He also expressed hope that in future there will be more women and youth in the parliaments.
- Lady MP from the Russian Federation stated that there are 35 women senators constituting 20% of senators in Russian Federation parliament. She also informed the colleagues about the 4th Eurasian Women's Forum (EWF) to be held in St.Petersburg, Russia, in September 2024 under the theme "Women for building trust and global cooperation". This forum will consider the role and opportunities for women in the interests of peace and humanitarian cooperation, female leadership, health and family values. In 2021 the previous 3rd EWF was attended by representatives from 111 countries and 23 international organizations. Since 2024 has been declared the Year of the Family in Russia, one of the strategic sessions of the 4th EWF will be devoted to the protection of traditional family values, support for motherhood and childhood. Traditionally the President of Russia Vladimir Putin takes personal part in the EWF, which emphasizes high status of the forum. She invited participants to attend this event.
- Lady MP from Bahrain stated that the gender equality is important. she expressed hope that in this committee there will be more women present in future. She also mentioned that Bahrain has a special experience in empowering women and they are entering the phase of women advancements.
- The representative of Palestine referred to the grave situation of women and children in the Palestine. He stated that over 75% of recent human casualties

in Gaze Strip are women and children. There were even cases where women prisoners gave birth while being kept in Israeli prison.

- China took the floor and stated that they support commission on women. They also mentioned that they have specific programs to uphold women's rights in different spheres.
- United Arab Emirates also reported on the activities of women in their parliament.
- MP from Turkey stated that unfortunately due to the bombardment, the history and culture of the region is being pushed back 100 years. We have the same problem in other countries in the region.
- Jordan: the fact that there are seven women parliamentarians in their delegation, is an indicative of the importance they give to women and women parliamentarians.

5. Consideration of Draft Resolutions recommended by the Executive Council

All 12 draft resolutions under consideration of this committee were adopted. On a few draft resolutions minor editorial changes were introduced.

6. Any other matters.

No issue was raised.

(Attachment I)

Asian Parliamentary Assembly

Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs



Baku, Azerbaijan
20-24 February 2024

Draft Agenda

- 1- Adoption of the Agenda,
- 2- Opening Remarks by Chairperson
- 3- Report of the Secretariat
- 4- Consideration of the situation of Women Parliamentarians in Asia
- 5- Consideration of Draft Resolutions recommended by the 2nd
Executive Council
- 6- Any other matters.



Standing Committee on Political Affairs

Baku, Azerbaijan
20-24 February 2024

Final Report

The Meeting of the Standing Committee on Political Affairs was held on February 22, 2024, and chaired by H.E. Mr. Jabbar Frayyeh Abbas Alchnani, MP of the Council of Representatives of Iraq.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Member Parliaments unanimously adopted the Draft Agenda. ([Attachment I](#))

2. Opening Remarks by the Chairperson:

The chairman welcomed participants and expressed hope that during this meeting of the standing committee on political Affairs we will be able to address the main issues properly and in the constructive approach.

3. Report of the Secretariat:

The representative of APA Secretariat presented the following report: Based on the decision of the SC meeting on November 10-11, 2023, held in Baghdad, Iraq, the only draft resolution on "Asian Parliaments' Unwavering Support for the Palestinian People" was considered by the First Executive Council meeting in 26-29 November 2023, Antalya, Türkiye. At this meeting, the EC decided to establish the "Committee on Palestine".

The first meeting of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly Committee on Palestine was held on January 10, 2024, in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran. The "Final Communiqué on the Current Situation in Palestine" was considered and adopted by consensus.

The establishment of the "Committee on Palestine" is to be endorsed by the 14th planetary the modality, terms of reference frequency of meetings on the committee on Palestine will be address by the next standing committee on political affairs.

4. Consideration of the Draft Resolution recommended by the Executive Council:

The representative of PNC stated that in Antalya the committee on Palestine was established. Its first meeting was held in Tehran. He proposed that the status of the committee of Palestine be upgraded to standing committee. The representative of APA Secretariat stated that this issue will be discussed in the next meeting.

Several delegations expressed their support for Palestine and the establishment of the committee on Palestine.

The only draft resolution under consideration of this committee was adopted with minor changes.

5. Any other matters:

No issue was raised.

(Attachment I)

Asian Parliamentary Assembly



Standing Committee on Political Affairs

Baku, Azerbaijan
20-24 February 2024



Draft Agenda

- 1- Adoption of the Agenda
- 2- Opening Remarks by Chairperson
- 3- Report of the Secretariat
- 4- Consideration of Draft Resolution recommended by 2nd Executive Council
- 5- Any other matters.