



APA Coordinating Meeting on the Sidelines of 148th IPU Assembly

Saturday, 23 March 2024, Hour 15:00
Geneva-Switzerland

Summary Report

At the invitation of the APA Secretariat, the Coordination Meeting of Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) was held on the sidelines of 148 IPU Assembly on Saturday, March 23 in Geneva, Switzerland, with participation of delegates from the following member parliaments:

Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Cyprus, Indonesia, India, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Timor Leste, Turkiye and the United Arab Emirate,

This event was chaired by H.E Ms. Sahiba Gafarova, honorable Speaker of Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan, in her capacity as the APA President.

AGENDA of the Meeting

Agenda of the APA Coordinating Meeting was presented for adoption by the Chair of the meeting and was adopted by acclamation. Items of the Agenda included as follows:

1. **Adoption of Agenda**
2. Opening Remarks by the Chair of Meeting, Her Excellency Ms. Sahiba Gafarova, Speaker of the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan in her capacity as the APA President,
3. Report by the APA Secretary General on:
 - a. Activities of the APA Secretariat since its last meeting in Luanda (Angola) and a brief APA calendar of regular events in 2024
 - b. How APA can come up with a better strategy to coordinate a unified position on international issues of importance to the APA,
4. Consideration of the Emergency Items proposed for inclusion in the agenda of 148 IPU Assembly,
5. Any other matters,

Item 2 of the agenda

Opening Remarks by the Chair of the APA Coordinating Meeting:

The Chair of the meeting welcomed the participants and thanked them for attending this important event. She also expressed her gratitude to the APA Secretariat for organizing this event. Ms. Gafarova, then, referred to the APA Resolution adopted by the APA Members in 2008 as the basis for organizing the APA Coordinating Meeting alongside IPU Assemblies, as an initiative to deepen cooperation and coordination on the important international issues of mutual interest.

She also touched on the convening of the APA 14th Plenary held last February in Baku where Azerbaijan took over the APA Presidency from Turkiye as a significant event for Azerbaijan and opening of a new page for both the Asian Parliamentary Assembly and Azerbaijan.

Combat against climate change was another issue highlighted by the Chair and the choice of hosting COP29 unanimously granted to Azerbaijan by international community at its meeting last year. She named Azerbaijan to be in an ideal position to facilitate comprehensive negotiations to achieve tangible progress in the COP 29 climate negotiations.

As regards parliamentary diplomacy, Ms. Gafarova, underlined parliamentary diplomacy as the basis for strengthening trust between countries and creation of a positive impact on solving current international and regional problems. In this context she said” the role of Asian Parliamentary Assembly should be especially emphasized as a significant platform of parliamentary diplomacy that unites common efforts to address current issues and challenges in favor of cooperation, peace and stability in Asia and the world”.

Therefore, she continued, every measure should be taken to improve the effectiveness of this platform, and attach great importance to the significance of interaction and cooperation between various parliamentary organizations with the aim of realization of common interest.

She concluded by underscoring the importance of coordinated actions and efforts between the APA and the IPU to achieve more effective results in realizing common goals as a tangible mechanism for real cooperation which can serve to complement each other’s activities and enhance the effect of parliamentary diplomacy.

[\(Attachment I\)](#)

Item 3 of the Agenda

SG’s Report on the Activities of the APA Secretariat:

APA Secretary General, Dr. Majidi began his report with a few words of thanks to the APA delegates from APA Member Countries who honored the APA Secretariat and attended the meeting. He said his report included two parts as follows:

- a) **Part I:** APA activities during the past six months and the calendar of programs to be covered during the year 2024,
- b) **Part II:** How APA can come up with a better strategy to coordinate a unified position on international issues of importance to the APA?

As regards the APA activities, the APA SG gave a report on the regular meetings of the Standing Committees and other statutory events which respectively were held and hosted during the past six months since the APA Coordinating Meeting in Luanda (Angola) as follows:

- SC on Political Affairs (Baghdad, Iraq),
- The First APA Executive Council Meeting (Anatalya, Turkiye)
- The First Meeting of the APA Committee on Palestine (Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran),
- The 14th APA Plenary Session (Baku, Azerbaijan)

He also touched on the Calendar of events to be held and hosted in the coming months as follows:

- Qatar: Standing Committee on Budget and Planning,
- Russian Federation: Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs,
- Bahrain: Sanding Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development,
- Iraq: Standing Committee on Political Affairs,
- The First Executive Council Meeting to be held by Azerbaijan,
- The 15th APA Plenary to be hosted by Azerbaijan,

As regards part (II) of his report, Dr. Majidi referred to the APA Resolution adopted in 2008 to underline the necessity of holding meetings on the sidelines of international events, most particularly alongside IPU Statutory assemblies as part of the initiative to enhance cooperation among the APA members on international issues of importance to APA.

He continued by saying that the main purpose of the APA sidelines meetings is to seek certain objectives as follows:

- To discuss and coordinate positions of the APA Member parliaments on major international issues of importance to APA and to identify best practices for parliamentary actions accordingly.

APA SG underscored the impacts of the APA decisions at various meetings on the National Legislation of the member parliaments and encouraged the APA members to take a coherent position in this respect as far as possible. He said the major idea behind this initiative was to share with the APA lawmakers as a step towards the adoption of policy for holding joint meetings with other observer organization attending the IPU Statutory assemblies.

[\(Attachment II\)](#)

Item 4 of the Agenda

Consideration of Emergency Items proposed for inclusion in the agenda of 148 IPU Assembly

Before moving onto item 4 of the agenda, the Chair touched on the recent terrorist attack in Russia and expressed her condolences on behalf of the participants at the meeting to the parliament and people of Russia and shared sympathy with the families of the victims of this shocking act of terror. She also condemned this horrendous act of terrorism.

As regards this item of Agenda, the Chair gave the floor to the APA Secretary General and asked him to provide some information about the emergency items proposed for discussion.

The Secretary General said that two APA members(Indonesia and Malaysia) had jointly proposed to the IPU an emergency item on the situation in Gaza Strip. Then, he asked the MP from Indonesian delegation to give some explanation about their joint proposed items

Indonesia: MP from Indonesia expressed his gratitude to the APA SG for holding this meeting and added that the APA was a major parliamentary body in Asia. On the occasion of the blessing month of Ramazan he said” *Ramadan Mubarak* and expressed hope that this holy month would bring peace, joy and blessings, not only for all the members at the meeting, but also to the whole world.

As regards the current tensions facing Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, he stated that the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia proposed inclusion of an emergency item entitled” *Parliamentary Diplomacy for Peace in Palestine*”

He continued by saying that in the last IPU Assembly in Luanda- Angola, it was unfortunate that the emergency item on Gaza was not adopted despite the big counts of the votes, but it was not possible to proceed because of the IPU procedural issues. He, therefore, expressed hope that this emergency item could be passed and highly appreciated for the support extended by the APA members.

He concluded underlining that the proposed emergency item did not only show solidarity of members with the Palestinian brothers and sisters over the deteriorating situation there, but also serves as the political stance on behalf of a good and common sense based on the principle of humanity.

Following the comments expressed by the Indonesian MP, the APA Secretary General informed the Chair that the meeting was ready to hear the comments on the emergency item jointly proposed by both Indonesia and Malaysia.

The Chair asked members to present their comments if any:

Iran: MP from Iran took the floor and expressed his congratulation on the election of Madam Gaforova as the APA President and Chair of the NAM NP ,wishing every success for her during the new term of her APA Presidency.

He, then, strongly condemned recent terrorist attack in the Russian Federation and expressed condolences to the government and people of Russia.

As regards the proposed emergency items, he continued by saying that it was over six months since the last coordinating meeting in Angola, the Zionist regime was still continuing its crimes against innocent people in Gaza. What has been our role as representatives of our people and what was the function of parliamentary diplomacy. He also appreciated Indonesia for the proposed item as well as the item proposed by South Africa on situation in Gaza, calling on the three proposing delegations to sit together in order to reach a consensus on one single issue.

Bahrain: MP from Bahrein said the Arab and Islamic Groups and that members of the APA meeting all agreed to reach a consensus on a single item. Therefore, he also recommended that South Africa, Indonesia, Palestine, Jordan and Algeria could sit together to come out with a joint proposal for submission to the IPU. He also supported the comments expressed by Iran in this respect in order to come up with an item which could best serve the Palestinian main objective.

Iraq: MP from Iraq began his remarks with a few words on the arrival of Nowruz and the blessings of the month of Ramadan. He also expressed condolences for the recent terrorist attack in Russia and condemned terrorism in any form across the world.

He then, referred to the Zionist regime's massacres in the Gaza Strip adding that this regime had not only surpassed its crimes through missile attacks, but resorted to a new genocidal act by barring distribution of foodstuff to reach the besieged people and forced them to suffer famine.

As a result, he continued, it was incumbent on the international community to show greater impetus for stopping act of genocide and do their best to compensate for the failure that took place in Angola for not being able to adopt the emergency item on Gaza. To compensate for the failed experienced in Angola, it was every one's duty to spare no effort to work for a ceasefire and to stop any further massacre .

To do this, he undermined, a consensus was needed and that the meeting should try its best to reach a consensus and galvanize full support for a consolidated item which could secure both immediate and lasting ceasefire and also criminalize the war crime perpetrated by the Zionist regime in Gaza.

Russian Federation: MP from Russian Federation took the floor and extended his appreciation for the sense of empathy expressed by the members at the meeting on the recent terrorist attack in Russia. He also expressed his special thanks to Azerbaijan, Iran and Iraq and all other members who shared sympathy with the government and people of Russia and condemned recent terrorist attack in Moscow.

He continued saying that it was the duty of all parliamentary members to work together in order to put an end to the threat of international terrorism. To this end, every feasible measure should be proactively made before it got too late. It was high time to show solidarity against those countries which support Zionism.

The Zionist regime would not stop killing innocent people and would continue to do so in absence of a unanimous decision by us to reach a lasting ceasefire, unless parliamentarians would take every necessary action at the earliest time possible.

Condemnation of Israeli terrorist action was another important measure to be adopted, as there were many countries that were facing terrorist, he underlined.

As regards the emergency item, he said, it was the duty of every member parliament to work hand in hand together in order to reach a common position in respect of the cessation of crimes perpetrated by the Zionist regime in Gaza.

He continued, APA as a strong parliamentary platform representing Asian parliaments should sit together to come into a unified position in order to be able to put an end to the crimes committed by Israel.

To this end, he continued, Russia was ready to do its utmost to cooperate in every aspect in order to galvanize full support of members to close their ranks against crimes perpetrated by Israel.

He concluded by saying that the issue of Gaza should be discussed together in order to gain more support and that Russian delegation was ready to attend every meeting held in that respect.

Pakistan: MP from Pakistan started his remarks by congratulating Azerbaijan Parliament Speaker as APA President and ensured full support and cooperation of his subject country with the new president.

He then referred to the recent terrorist attack in Russia and offered condolences to the families of the victims and expressed sympathy with the people of Russia. He also condemned all forms of terrorism and called for close cooperation of international community in the fight against terrorism anywhere in the world as Pakistan has been victim of terrorism and could understand the situation.

As regards the resolution proposed by Indonesia and Malaysia concerning the humanitarian situation in Gaza, he said, the basis of the resolution centered on respect to humanitarian laws, as humanitarian law had no boundary.

Pakistan, he continued, were, aware of the situation and fully concerned not to being able to reach a consensus in Angola.

Today, he added, Pakistan believed that one resolution should be presented and that the three sponsors of the existing drafts (South Africa, Indonesia and Malaysia) should come out with a combined one and to reach a consensus over one draft in order to avoid what happened in Angola

Pakistan was ready to help contribute for drafting a resolution with a common language as a motive of every one was clear and that was fight against terrorism, as in Angola such an objective could not be reached. No doubt, what was happening in Gaza is reminiscence of terrorism, he highlighted

Saudi Arabi. Thanked the Chair and all the colleagues at the meeting. He said he would like to place more emphasis on the dangers and threats of terrorist activities adding that his country had fallen victim of terrorism several times.

He also thanked Indonesia and Malaysia for their joint proposal on the situation in Gaza Strip as well as that of South Africa which submitted an item in this respect. This can be taken into mind as a roadmap to follow for adoption of a new text on the part of the APA.

He continued, we have been facing a very difficult situation noting the horrendous crimes experienced by the people of Palestine in the Gaza Strip during the past six months as a result of the war crime committed by the Zionist regime in the besieged enclave.

It was the duty of APA member parliaments , particularly Indonesia, Malaysia, Algeria and Jordan to sit together in order to reach a consensus about the final text to be submitted to the IPU.

Bangladesh: MP from Bangladesh expressed his pleasure for taking the floor. He condemned the recent terrorist attack that took place in Russia as well as any kind of terrorist activity across the world. Bangladesh had been also fallen victim to terrorism and stood against terrorist act due to its bitter experience of terrorist act years ago.

As regards the proposal co-sponsored by Indonesia and Malaysia on Gaza, which was discussed in several groups he underlined that the draft resolution to be provided in this respect should thoroughly cover such tangible items, including immediate ceasefire and cessation of the killing of innocent civilians.

He referred to the situation in the Gaza Strip as an unjust war ruthlessly violating human rights and international law and should be immediately come to a halt.

He continued every necessary measure should be taken for the relief of the Palestinians and that the path for supply of food for them should be immediately opened.

He concluded by saying that there was an urgent need to end the crimes and crimes against humanity committed by the Israeli occupying power.

Bangladesh was the last member to take the floor and as there were no further comments, the Chair thanked the participants for sharing their views and also thanked Iran and Bahrain for their comments proposing the idea of forming a small group to sit together in order to come up with one single item.

5. Any other matters:

The Chair asked if there were any comments in respect of this item of agenda and gave the floor to the delegate of Indonesia to express his comment.

Indonesia: MP from Indonesia took the floor and on behalf of the House of representatives and the people of Indonesia expressed heartfelt condolences on the occasion of the terrorist act happened in Russia which claimed hundreds of lives and injury of many others.

He expressed sincere sympathy for those injured and continued that any attack against civilians was not justified and should be condemned. What was happening in Gaza killing innocent people and imposing forced famine in the enclave should be ended as soon as possible, he underlined.

As there was no other issue to be discussed the Chair declared the meeting closed.

Attachment I

**Asian Parliamentary Assembly Coordinating Meeting
In the framework of the 148th IPU Assembly
23 March 2024, 15:00 -16:30**

**Dear Colleagues,
Distinguished Members of the Parliaments,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

With great pleasure, I would like to greet you all and thank for your participation in the Coordinating Meeting of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly.

As is known, in accordance with the APA Resolution, dated November 29th, 2008, during each meeting of the IPU Assembly, the Asian Parliamentary Assembly organizes a Coordinating Meeting, in order to deepen cooperation and coordination on important international issues of mutual interest.

This is the first Coordinating Meeting of the APA on the sidelines of the IPU, which is held under the Chairmanship of Azerbaijan.

Dear Colleagues,

A month ago, on February 20-24, 2024, the 14th APA Plenary Session, dedicated to the theme “Fostering regional cooperation for sustainable development in Asia”, was held in Baku. It was an extremely significant event for us, since at this Plenary Session Azerbaijan officially became the Chairman of the Organization for the period from 2024 to 2025. We are confident that this will open a new page for both the Asian Parliamentary Assembly and Azerbaijan.

The 14th Plenary Session of APA attended by representatives of 26 states and 8 international organizations, provided us with precious opportunity to exchange views on the development of cooperation within the organization and on various issues of common interest related to regional and international processes. As a result of the Plenary Session, the Baku Declaration was adopted, which reflected the general position of the participants regarding the issues discussed.

Among other issues, the problem of climate change, which demands all of us to act more decisively, was also discussed during the 14th Plenary Session.

In this regard, I would like to note that at the end of the last year, international community unanimously chose Azerbaijan to host the COP29. It is an honor and privilege for us to host such a significant event. Azerbaijan is one of the recognized global centers of multiculturalism and plays a role in building bridges between the Global North and the Global South. Azerbaijan is in

an ideal position to facilitate comprehensive negotiations to achieve tangible progress in the COP29 climate negotiations.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I sincerely hope that our meeting today will serve the purpose of strengthening and developing parliamentary diplomacy, the role of which constantly increases. As we know, the main theme of the 148th IPU Assembly is “Parliamentary diplomacy: Building bridges for peace and understanding”.

In contemporary conditions, parliamentary diplomacy can strengthen trust between countries and have a positive impact on solving current international and regional problems. Parliamentary participation in the process of resolving crises, conflicts and parliamentary diplomacy can successfully complement classical government diplomacy, making an invaluable contribution to it.

Global trends aimed at expanding the activities of interparliamentary organizations, the development of legal frameworks regulating interparliamentary cooperation, the constantly growing involvement of parliaments in global decision-making processes - all this indicates to the need for further evolution of interparliamentary cooperation.

Dear colleagues,

In this context, the role of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly should be especially emphasized. It is a significant platform of parliamentary diplomacy that unites common efforts to address current issues and challenges in order to achieve strengthening of cooperation, peace, and stability in Asia and the world.

We have to take all measures to improve the effectiveness of this platform.

We also attach great importance and emphasize the significance of interaction and cooperation between various parliamentary organizations, which ultimately aim to realize common interests.

Along with the issues discussed, we must also seriously think about how two organizations - the APA and the IPU - can coordinate actions and efforts to achieve more effective results in realizing common goals. Establishment of real cooperation mechanisms can help increase the resources of both sides. It will undoubtedly complement each other’s activities and enhance the effect of parliamentary diplomacy.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Dear participants,

Now I would like to give the floor to the Secretary General of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, His Excellency Mr. Mohammad Reza Majidi to present his report.

Attachment II



APA Secretary General's Report To The APA Coordination Meeting on the Sidelines of 148th IPU Assembly Saturday, March 23, 2024 Geneva- Switzerland

With much pleasure, I would like to sincerely welcome you for your participation at this APA Coordination meeting and also thankful to you for the fruitful insights you share with us to further enrich the outcome of our deliberations at our gatherings on the sidelines of the IPU statutory assemblies.

Also allow me to congratulate the new traditional feast of Noruz to all the APA member parliaments and their delegations representing here who celebrate this jubilant event every year.

Furthermore, I deem it necessary to sincerely congratulate the new APA President Her Excellency, Madam Sahiba Gafarova and thank her for generous hospitality and well-versed organization of the 14th APA Plenary in Baku, the Republic of Azerbaijan and hope for a new era of parliamentary diplomacy to be pursued by our organization under the new leadership.

It is also incumbent on me to seize this opportunity to express my sincere thanks and appreciations to the current leadership of the Grand National Assembly of Turkiye (GNAT) H.E. Dr. Numan Kurtulmuş and his predecessors in their capacities as Presidents of the APA for the past six consecutive years.

Finally, it is my fervent belief that we should take full advantage of the semi- annual opportunities provided by the IPU, the global organization of parliaments, for promotion of parliamentary diplomacy for the Asian integration as the core essence and raison d'être behind the establishment of our organization.

I-Part A of the Report

Dear Colleagues,

As part of its usual programs and activities conducted and carried out since our last meeting in Luanda, I would like to inform you that according to the calendar of the regular events, the APA Secretariat has organized the following meetings:

1. The Meeting of Standing Committee on Political Affairs,

This Committee held its meeting on 10-11 November 2023 in Baghdad under the chairmanship of the Iraqi Council of Representatives as APA Vice-President with participation of delegations from 15 member parliaments.

Though there were several draft resolutions before the Committee for consideration, but under a unanimous decision, it decided to galvanize its full support for the people of Palestine and elevate parliamentary voices against the criminal acts perpetrated by the Zionist regime in order to bring the alarming situation in the blockade into a halt for a lasting and sustainable ceasefire.

Therefore, the Committee decided to concentrate all its effort on this critical issue. As a result, the Committee decided to put off consideration of all other resolutions to later dates and focus on the only resolution entitled “*Asian Parliaments’ unwavering support for the Palestinian people*”.

This resolution was considered by the participants in the strongest tone possible. The Meeting finally wrapped up with adoption of an outcome document entitled Baghdad Final Communique in condemnation of the criminal actions and war crimes perpetrated by the Zionist regime. Furthermore, the participants reiterated their full support for the people of Palestine and their legitimate struggles to regain their inalienable rights.

2. First APA Executive Council Meeting:

The First APA Executive Council Meeting was held on 27-28 November 2023 in Antalya, Republic of Türkiye under the chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Abdulkadir Emin ÖNEN, Head of the APA Group in the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye with participation of delegations from 19 APA Member Parliaments.

The important points adopted by the Meeting:

- Establishment of a Committee on Palestine as an issue of grave concern in the aftermath of the Zionist regime’s heavy bombardment of Gaza and mass killing of civilians. This Committee held an informal session alongside the EC Meeting in Antalya under the chair of Deputy Speaker of PNC as its president and decided to hold its first meeting in Tehran as proposed by the Head of the Iranian Delegation.
- Endorsement of Azerbaijan candidacy for the new term of 2024-2025, after Iran withdrew its candidacy in favor of a consensual decision expressing its readiness to take over presidency in the next term ..
- Election of the four Vice-Presidents to host and chair the meetings of their concerned Standing Committees.
- Consideration of the programs and activities of the four Standing Committees as presented and adopted accordingly.
- Consideration of Azerbaijan proposal for the establishment of the Commission on Women. This proposal was addressed by EC members in details. However, after lengthy pro and con discussions, final decision on the establishment of this Commission was postponed to a later APA meeting for further examination of the case .

- Examination of the report of the 2nd Working Group on Statutory documents which was held in Tehran on July 11, 2023 with participation of its titular members and several interested countries. The Secretariate gave its report on this issue. In absence of the Kuwait delegation, head of the Bahraini delegation announced that National Assembly of Kuwait would soon invite the 8 titular members of the WG on Statutory Documents to attend the third Session of the WG in Kuwait.

3. The First Meeting of the APA Committee on Palestine

The First Meeting of the Committee on Palestine was held in Tehran following decision of the First Executive Council at its meeting in Antalya to establish a Special Committee on Palestine to address the ongoing widespread humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip in the aftermath of unabated criminal actions of the Zionist Entity. This meeting was chaired by PNC Deputy Speaker as President of the Committee with participation of delegations from 17 APA Member Parliaments.

The meeting concluded its session issuing a final communique strongly condemning the Zionist entity's war crimes in the Gaza Strip perpetrated with support of its international allies. It also called for an immediate and sustainable ceasefire and establishment of a Palestinian State with Al-Ghods as its eternal Capital, and the right of return of all Palestinians refugees to their homeland.

4. 14th APA Plenary Session

The 14th Plenary was held on 20-24 February 2024 in Baku, capital city of the Republic of Azerbaijan with participation of 23 APA Member Parliaments and several parliamentary organizations as observers.

At this meeting transition of APA Presidency from Turkiye to Azerbaijan took place and participants sincerely thanked wise leadership of Turkiye as the APA President during the past six years and congratulated Milli Majlis of Azerbaijan for taking over the APA leadership for the new term of 2024-2025.

In the course of the 14th Plenary, the 2nd Executive Council and the four Standing Committees held their regular meetings and adopted the relevant draft resolutions.

Meanwhile, the following Member Parliaments as Vice-President declared readiness to host and chair the following four Standing Committees:

- 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

Request of the Association of Secretaries General of Arab Parliaments to be granted observer status was also endorsed.

The Plenary ended its work issuing a declaration which concentrated among other things on the following items:

- Asia is the birth place of the earliest civilization and mainstream of religions, with deep rooted and diversified historical, economic, social, cultural and political bonds,

- Parliamentary diplomacy is an important pillar in maintaining peace, stability playing a pivotal role in enhancing trust, cooperation and solidarity among nations,
- Inter-parliamentary relations are of utmost importance for development of multidimension and comprehensive cooperation,
- It is of vital need to promote peace in Asia through peaceful resolutions of ongoing conflicts and underscore the importance of safe and dignified return of persons displaced as a result of conflicts,

The declaration duly condemned crimes against Palestinian people and called for an immediate permanent cessation of hostilities in the Gaza Strip and provisions of necessary means for humanitarian access to the people under siege in the blockade.

5. Calander of Events within the timeframe to be adopted for future programs:

Under its regular Calander of events, the APA secretariat will make necessary arrangements for holding the APA statutory meetings as follows:

- Meetings of the four Standing Committees according to the timeframe to be set up and announced by the respective Vice-President and Chair of the related meetings,
- The 1st APA Executive Council Meeting to be hosted by the APA President,
- The 2nd Executive Council Meeting along with the 15th Plenary to be organized and hosted by the APA President,
- The 3rd Session of the Working Group on Statutory Documents,
- Any other events which may deemed necessary to be decided accordingly,
- The 15th APA Plenary to be held and hosted by the APA President

II-Part B of the Report

As regards part (b) of my report, I would like to refer you to the APA Resolution (**APA/Res/2008/07**) adopted in November 2008 which constitute raison d'être for our regular gathering on the occasion of the IPU Statutory Assemblies.

This Resolution which is entitled:

“Cooperation and Coordination on Major International Issues of Importance to APA”

Calls on the APA Member Parliaments to do their utmost for coordination and cooperation with other regional parliamentary organizations in order to come into a common position about international issues of importance to the APA. It also calls to use parliamentary capacity of the IPU in the course of its semi-annual assemblies.

To this end, the APA Secretariat has spared no effort to benefit from every parliamentary forum in favor of interactions between lawmakers in order to exchange views on issues of common interest. This measure was taken as part of its principal policy intended to strengthen the shared values with the aim of enhancing parliamentary diplomacy.

This is why the APA Secretariat has placed this item in the agenda to share with you the initiatives that can better help to strengthen the dimensions of this side events and to see how we can develop it further to the extent that we push forward our policy to hold joint meetings with other observer organizations attending the IPU Statutory Assemblies in order to discuss and coordinate positions for further enrichment of parliamentary dimension of international cooperation.

Any comments in this respect are highly welcomed
Thank you for your attention