



APA Coordinating Meeting on the Sidelines of 150 IPU Assembly

Tashkent-Uzbekistan
Saturday, 05 April 2025

Summary Report

At the invitation of the APA Secretariat, the Coordination Meeting of Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) was held on the sidelines of 150 IPU Assembly on Saturday, April 05, 2025 in Tashkent, capital city of the Republic of Uzbekistan, with participation of delegations from the following member parliaments:

Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, India, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Turkiye, United Arab Emirate and Uzbekistan

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.

1. Adoption of Draft Agenda:

The Chair presented the draft agenda of the APA Coordinating Meeting which was adopted by acclamation. Items of the Agenda included as follows:

Agenda of the Meeting

1. Adoption of Agenda,
2. Opening Remarks by the Chair of Meeting, H.S Dr. Sahiba Gafarova, honorable Speaker of the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan in her capacity as the APA President,
3. Report by H.E Dr. Mohammad Reza Majidi, the APA Secretary General on the activities of the APA Secretariat and future programs of the Organization.
4. Consideration of the requests for inclusion of Emergency Items in the agenda of the 150 IPU Assembly,
5. Any other matters,
- **Item 2 of the Agenda: Remarks by the Chair of the APA Coordinating Meeting:**

The Chair welcomed the participants and thanked them for attending this important event. She then stated that the APA Meeting alongside 150 IPU Assembly in Tashkent is the third coordinating meeting held under the chairmanship of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

As regards *raison d'être* for convening of the APA sittings on the sidelines of the APA Assemblies, she stated that this event is being held under the mandate entrusted to the APA Secretariat as per the resolution adopted by the APA member parliaments in the Plenary Meeting dated November 29, 2008. She added that APA Meetings alongside the IPU Assemblies greatly contributed to the deepening of our cooperation and coordination on important international issues of mutual interest.

In another development Ms. Ghafrova touched on the convening of the 15th Plenary Session held in Baku last February with welcome participation of 26 member parliaments and 7 observer organizations which was successfully concluded with quite promising priorities.

Activation of the APA Bureau and convening of its meetings alongside the Standing Committees was underlined as a successful policy to speed up APA programs with due respect to the new working procedure underlined by the Chair of the Meeting.

Strengthening of Multilateral cooperation in Asia and untiring efforts for the advancement of parliamentary diplomacy was also among other important items underscored during 15 APA Plenary, she added, she remarked

Ms. Ghafarova, the APA President and Chair of the Meeting concluded her address stating that the APA Coordinating Meeting in the margin of the IPU Assemblies would also help draw the attention of our parliamentarians to the issue of mutual interest and mobilize of our resources to achieve common goals.

[Attachment I](#)

- **Item 3 of Agenda: APA SG's Report on the activities of the APA Secretariat:**

APA Secretary General, Dr. Majidi began his report with some words of thanks to the APA delegates of APA Member Countries who honored the APA Secretariat and attended the meeting.

As an initial step in his report, Dr. Majidi referred to the mandate entrusted to the APA Secretariat to convene a meeting on the sidelines of the IPU Statutory Assemblies stating that the initiative behind this APA Coordination Meeting dates back to the APA decision in 2008 when member parliaments at their meeting in Tehran decided to establish active cooperation with IPU and other important international organizations in an attempt to garner further experience in a bid to strengthen parliamentary diplomacy. In the follow-ups to the coordination meetings held, as a usual practice, in the margin of the IPU Assemblies and its successful outcome, the APA Secretariat decided to further boost its presence in the IPU Meetings with the aim of holding APA Bureau Session alongside the IPU Assemblies.

APA Secretary General referred to 2024 a successful year for the APA Secretariat, as it could regularly hold its meetings with the desirable results. Endorsement by the Executive Council of the equal assessed annual contribution of minimum amount of (22,000 US\$), election of the four Vice-Presidents as well as election of the APA President for the new term up to the year 2028 were enumerated among the successful steps taken by the APA during this year.

In another part of his report, Dr. Majidi touched on the latest development in the Middle East describing the tragic situation and humanitarian crisis facing Palestinian people in Gaza Strip

in the aftermath of inundated military strikes against the civilians in Gaza and Lebanon over the past 18 months.

He continued recent atrocities of the Apartheid Regime of Israel in the Gaza Strip is a clear indication of the fact that the desire for a sustainable ceasefire in the enclave is but an elusive dream which never comes true.

He then gave a report on the APA programs and the meetings of the Standing Committees and other statutory meetings which respectively were held and hosted during the past six months since the APA Coordinating Meeting in Geneva.

[Attachment II](#)

Following the statement of the APA Secretary General, the Chair of the meeting expressed her excuse for not being able to continue administration of the meeting due to her other planned programs. She therefore, entrusted management of the Meeting to the Chairman of the Shura Council of Qatar, Mr. Hassan bin Abdollah Al-Ghanim as the APA Vice-President. She also appointed Mr. Rizvan Nabiyeu, Representative of the APA President and the Head of the APA Group of Azerbaijan as her representative. As a result, the APA Secretary General requested the Speaker of Qatar Parliament to continue administration of the meeting.

- **Item 4 of Agenda Consideration of Emergency Items proposed for inclusion in the agenda of 147 IPU Assembly**

H.E. Excellency Mr. Al-Ghanim took the floor and made a brief remark stating that the APA is a second largest parliamentary organization, because it is a big and effective parliamentary platform which can play a vital role in the regional and international arena.

He continued “this Parliamentary Body with such a widespread number of members can share greatly in the advancement of parliamentary diplomacy. Therefore, APA can play a significant role in unifying the members’ positions for making concerted effort in respect of the tragic issue of Palestine and the plight of its people.

He underlined that APA, as the 2nd important parliamentary platform with 45 members and good number of voting power can have a strong voice in the regional and international forums, if we support each other. "We call the Palestinian Issue a humanitarian one. When we make our proposal regarding Palestine, we have support of the APA as well, because what we want is justice and we want support Palestinian people.

Speaker of the Shura Council of Qatar then asked the participants to express their comments on item 4 of the agenda which relates to the request for inclusion of emergency item in the IPU Agenda.

As regards this item of agenda the participants took the floor and respectively expressed their comments on this item which focused on the ongoing tension in the Gaza Strip.

Iraq: “Palestine issue is of great importance to Iraq and we are gravely concerned over the current tragic situation in Gaza. In the last IPU meeting we could not gain necessary grounds

for stronger solidarity in order to register the required majority of votes for the proposed emergency item on the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. This was as setback for the good number of votes that Arab countries can obtain.”

He continued “We must take lesson from our past experiences. The people in the Gaza Strip are facing a very deplorable and disappointing situation and today we as human being should not merely suffice to sharing sympathy with them, but also, we should do practical measures as human being. During our last meeting in Geneva, in a concerted effort we could get the required two- third majority vote which was a success for us, though not the highest majority to be included in the IPU Agenda.

He highlighted the issue and said if we propose an item and support it with all our voting power of nearly 700 votes we will succeed. This time we should take a lesson from our past experience and practically and procedurally try to close our rank for gaining full success in the voting process.

Turkiye: Mr. ENON, MP from Trukiye and Head of the APA Group in GNAT thanked Uzbekistan and its parliament for their hospitality stating that Uzbekistan plays a vital role in the international affairs. He also thanked the Secretary General of the Asian Parliament.

He continued “Uzbekistan is a main source of cultural heritage, the city of Samarkand, Bukhara and Khiveh are all reminiscence of linkage for cultural solidarity. Meanwhile, Uzbekistan plays a vital role in international affairs as a link connecting east to west; a country shaping cultural heritage for centuries. Turkiye has good relations with Uzbekistan as a source of cultural heritage. He also referred to the deep cultural trade and tourism existing between Turkey and Uzbekistan”

Mr. ENON, added “Our world has been drawn into a turbulent situation and parliaments should come together and seek solution in the face of new challenges.”

As regards the current situation in Syria he said every effort should be made to keep the country away from turmoil and disruption.

He highlighted the importance of parliamentary relations adding that Parliaments should come together and work within the framework of parliamentary diplomacy as our success firmly hinges on working together if we are to reach a good and sustainable future.

In another development he said Israel has lost its credibility in the international arena as it broke the ceasefire and massacred hundreds of people, including women and children in Gaza. Therefore, we cannot remain silence in the face of such tragic situation and should proactively work together about the future situation in Gaza.

Given violation of international law by Israel, he said, a strong united front should be formed to stand against the Israeli’s crimes in order to bring back ceasefire to Gaza.

He finally expressed hope that the required budget is provided by APA members so that the APA can continue its project as planned.

[Attachment III](#)

Jordan: Most ancient people in the world are living in the Middle East. The Israeli's aggression against Gaza, was an act of genocide, and war crime against Palestinian people. They attacked schools and hospitals in Gaza Strip killing thousands of women and children. Israel has perpetrated all these crimes.

Brutal acts that never had any precedence. One year has passed since our meeting in the IPU and during this period Israel has continued its brutality. A gravely deplorable situation is lingering over the region. We cannot wait for another year in order to come to a final decision. As a matter of fact, no one wants to die, we must do everything in our power to force Israel to apply cease fire.

He continued: Israel has blocked access of Palestinians to international aid exposing them to serious famine condition. They have been also prevented from having access to food and water. I hereby ask everyone to give a hand for working together in order to establish a sustainable ceasefire. At the same time, we are against relocation and resettlement of the Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip. I plead everyone to work for the achievement of ceasefire and prevent resettlement of Palestinians. I want to say that representatives of all countries should support of us about this Issue.

Israel should be placed under pressure to apply ceasefire. The Apartheid regime of Israel not only killed Palestinians in the fasting month of Ramazan, but also blocked access of food supply to the area. I want all my brothers to work hand in hand and voice their support for the establishment of sustainable ceasefire.

The MP from Jordan also proposed that a delegation composed of APA should go to the Rafah check point and closely witness the deplorable situation of the Palestinians who are deprived from international aids as a result of inhuman action of the Israelis preventing the inhabitant to have access to food and other facilities and try to stay there until blocked situation is removed.

In another part of his remarks he said: It is over one year that Israel has intensified hostilities against the innocent people in Gaza Strip with no support from outside. Time is running out without being able to do anything for our brothers in the Gaza Strip. It is not possible to sit idly without taking any practical action for salvage of the Palestinians.

Iran: First Deputy Speaker of the Islamic Parliament of Iran , H.E. Dr. Hajibabaei expressed pleasure for the convening of this meeting and hoped that APA member countries can further strengthen their unity to lessen plight of the Palestinian people.

Unilateralism has no place in the world today and every effort should be made to maintain peace and security across the world. Regional countries can do a great job under their unity and stand against hegemony of bullying powers , he remarked

As regards the crimes perpetrated by the Zionist regime of Israel, he stated that international community should get together and take a unified action against the occupying regime of Israel for restoration of the inalienable rights of Palestinians.

Bahrain: Referring to the repeated failure to gain the required two third majority of votes in favor of the request for inclusion of the issue of Palestine in the IPU Agenda during the past two IPU Assemblies, he stated that we should take a unified stance and extend our full support to only one comprehensive proposal, otherwise we once again will not be able to reach any success. He also described some procedural matters about voting as we experienced last year

about the item on Palestine and underlined that We should strongly resist against Israel brutality.

He continued : It is high time that We should collect all our energy and forces to work on a single issue and lobby with the concerned countries in support of our proposal. In this respect he underscored that if we duly be aware of the voting mechanism there will be more chance for success. People of Palestine are facing with widespread brutal crimes on the part of Israel; a criminal regime which has decided to exterminate humanity in this area. Therefore, Muslims should be really ashamed for not being able to even provide food and water for the Palestinians who are engulfed in their homeland.

People of Palestine have been densely surrounded in the enclave without having any access to medicine leading many to die under such disastrous condition. We, as Muslim countries could do anything possible and not just suffice to merely condemning the Israeli's crimes. Due to lack of solidarity, we could not even gain enough vote in condemnation of the Zionist regime crimes during 148 and 149 IPU Assemblies in Angola and Geneva.

In continuation of the debate concerning the issue of Palestine, the Chairperson of the Meeting said Representative of Bahrain touched on a very important point concerning the voting mechanism. This procedural point should be duly noted and observed in future voting. The mechanism that described by the MP from Bahrain should be complied with if we are to receive the two-third majority of votes.

Saudi Arabia: My brother from Bahrain was right. The proposal submitted by Arab League should be supported with the votes in favor without any abstention, otherwise the item will not gain the required majority despite our good number of nearly 700 of votes.

The clarification by our brother from Bahrain on voting mechanism should duly note, considering the high number of votes we have and can garner larger vote to gain the required number of votes on the issue of Palestine. In fact, the issue of Palestine is of grave concern to everyone as it is not a personal matter.

We cannot make any step forward if we decline to follow the applicable procedure. Despite good number of votes we have; it is three times that we have not been able to gain the required majority of votes. It is regrettable that some countries have their own policy, while some other Arab countries have different policy and not voting. As a result, we should work hard in order to find a solution to this issue in the Arab League. APA and other Arab countries should take due note of this issue. Let's hear the voice of our conscience and take professional steps if we are to win in the voting process.

Pakistan. The MP from Pakistan referred to the activities that Pakistan has conducted during the time it took over the presidency of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly and actively contributed to the advancement of the objective of the APA.

He then continued: APA should help any country that faces tragic disaster like Myanmar which is now in dire need of help due to the recent disastrous earthquake.

As regards the current situation in Gaza Strip, he stated that efforts should be made to force Israel to lift all the barricades so that people of Palestine be freed in their traditional land and not to be displaced under forceful resettlement.

Israel must be tried in the International Court of Justice for the war crimes, genocide and mass killing of unarmed innocent people of Palestine. At the same time, UN must declare Jerusalem as an international city where Palestine enjoy the right for equal control .

Indonesia: MP from Indonesia highlighted the role of parliaments in advancing the two-state solution under the resolution prepared by the IPU Standing Committee on political and International Affairs. Parliament and government of Indonesia have always extended their full support for the people of Palestine. Therefore, it is right time to support this draft resolution.

As regards the past usual practice, APA has proposed emergency item concerning Palestine several time, but was not adopted. Similarly, the Asia Pacific Geopolitical Group has raised the issue of Palestine as emergency item at its meetings and we proposed that APA establish a small group of lobbyists to consult with other groups in order to gain more support for adoption of the item.

Azerbaijan: “Mr. Rizvan Nabiyeu, Head of the APA Group of Azerbaijan ,expressed deep concern of its subject country over the escalation of tension in the Middle East and said one of the most pressing problems in this respect is the current situation in Gaza. The sever tragedy in Gaza must be brought to an end, the war halted and all outstanding issues should be dealt with through peaceful negotiation.

He continued by saying that at this critical moment, we would like to reaffirm our unrelenting support for the legitimate struggles of the Palestinian people for statehood, peace and stability and a bright future.

He then referred to the measures taken by Azerbaijan to alleviate the plight of the Palestinian People in light of the worsening livelihood and dire humanitarian situation.

Over the last decade, Azerbaijan has made a financial contribution worth of million USD to the United Nations relief and works agency for Palestinian refugees in the Near East to help the people on the ground.

As a responsible member of international community, we will continue to support the efforts to achieve a just, lasting and peaceful solution to the issue of Palestine in all its aspects in line with fundamental norms and principles of international law”.

[Attachment IV](#)

Iraq: It is suggested to establish a special Committee composed of the Islamic and Arab member along with a member from the Asian Parliamentary Assembly is established and dispatched to region for extension of support to the people in Gaza. About the emergency items and creation of a committee, he said, those who raised their hands can be members of the Committee composed of Arab and Islamic Groups and a member from APA

Bahrain: Iraq’s proposal is valuable, but we don’t have time. We must do personal contact with others. Allow those who are member states, to allow other continents, for example Latin America to support us . We are about 70 countries. What would the Committee be dealing with? As we do not have time we can use our personal contact.

If Arab and Asian Parliaments discuss it among themselves, We together can solve the issue .We must use our time in an efficient way. Head of Asian Group, Arab and Islamic Groups discuss the matter about finding enough votes. As regard the Jordan proposal to send a

delegation to Gaza, We are concerned about security Issue. Jordan says to send a delegation to Rafah to the checkpoints. The European delegation pay visit to Rafah to check the situation. We can also take similar step to see what Isreal does there.

Iraq: MP from Iraq said he was extremely ashamed for not being able to do anything to reduce sufferings of the people in Gaza Strip. Humanity is being trampled in the region with no action on the part of the Muslim countries to voice out their support for the innocent people of Palestine.

Human rights is being trampled in the region and we in the neighboring countries cannot even send food or money to them. The innocent people in the region are dying of illness and humanity is not ashamed of what is going on in Palestine. We are sitting here and there and witnessing gradual dying of the engulfed people in the Gaza Strip under the atrocities of the Israeli forces banning Palestinian to have access to food and water.

There are some Arab countries which refuse to vote in favor of Palestinian issue. There are some countries that have nothing to do with Islam, but are in support of Palestine. I am really ashamed to be a member of this society. Children are burnt and building are destroyed in the face of the international silence. There are some Islamic countries which are opening border to Israel that it can kill Palestinians. We have showed our weaknesses every where, including in Geneva. We witnessed that some Arab countries did not vote in support of Palestinian.

Iran: Today the resounding echo of Palestinian massacre by the Apartheid regime of Israel has aired all over the world. The Apartheid regime of Israel has killed at least 20,000 children in Palestine with the support of their allies, while many of the Muslim countries remain silent in the face of such horrendous crimes. The proposal to establish a committee composed of members from Asian Parliamentary Assembly, Islamic and Arab countries to travel to the region and closely witness the depth of crimes perpetrated by the Zionist regime and further unveil the depth of crimes perpetrated by this apartheid regime in the Gaza Strip.

Palestine :We heard some countries are supporting us and I am proud that they are so thinking. I am also thankful to the APA and Asian countries, and grateful to all those countries who expressed their support for the people of Palestine.

As regards the issue of Palestine and the current situation governing in the Gaza Strip, submission of an emergency item in this respect is of great significance. They will not stop massacre of Palestinian People.

You have been witnessing that despite the actions of international organizations against atrocities of Israel, this regime has a deaf ear to such measures and will not care about it. Therefore, under such circumstances, submission of an emergency item and its adoption is a victory for Palestinian people. This time is different about voting in favor of issue of Palestine as we have the support of Geopolitical Groups as well.

Reconstruction issue, ceasefire and resettlement issue pursued by Isreal on displacement of the People of Palestinian should be regarded as issues of grave concern. We should consult with geopolitical groups and receive their full support, if we are to win greater support in favor of the people of Palestine . Moreover, procedure for voting criteria should be also taken into account not to lose any single vote.

- **Item 5 of the Agenda: Any other matters:**

Regarding Item 5 of the agenda, Bahrain raised the issue of candidature for the position of IPU Secretary General. Bahrain supports the proposal for introducing a candidate from Asia for the vacant seat of the IPU Secretary General whose term would come to an end next year.

APA is a great and widespread parliamentary platform in the world regarding its size. As regards election of the new IPU Secretary General, which is scheduled for 2026, I think Parliaments of the Asian countries can think over the issue of candidature. This issue will be discussed in Geopolitical groups in order to reach a coherent result.

The Chair of Meeting supported the idea and stated that it would be raised in the Arab Parliamentary Group.

Having covered all the items of the Agenda, the Chair closed the meeting and thanked all the participants for their interactive contribution.

Attachment I

**Asian Parliamentary Assembly Coordinating Meeting
In the framework of the 150th IPU Assembly
5 April 2025, 11:30 -13:00**

**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.

This is the third Coordinating Meeting of the APA on the sidelines of the IPU, which is held under the Chairmanship of parliament Azerbaijan. Indeed, these meetings greatly contribute to deepening of our cooperation and coordination on important international issues of mutual interest.

Dear Colleagues,

A month ago, on February 18-20, 2025, the 15th Plenary Session of the APA, dedicated to the theme “Role of parliamentary diplomacy in strengthening multilateral cooperation in Asia”, was held in Baku.

The 15th Plenary Session was attended by representatives of 27 states and 7 international organizations. It 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.

Let me note that the Azerbaijani chairmanship put forward several priorities for its presidency on further strengthening our joint work - development of institutional capacity of the APA, expanding our ranks, increasing the effectiveness of the existing bodies. The conclusions of the 15th Assembly are quite promising.

First of all, the ranks of our organization have expanded as a result of the 15th Assembly. The Shura Council of the Sultanate of Oman became a full member of the APA, and the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus obtained status of observer.

It should also be noted that at this Session, a consensus was reached on the decision to form the APA budget, which is very important for further strengthening and increasing the Assembly's capabilities.

Activation of the APA Bureau and convening of its meetings during each meeting of the Standing Committees helps to respond promptly to the needs of the organization.

As the result of the proceedings of our committees, 29 resolutions were adopted covering political, economic, cultural, social, environmental and other issues. The Baku Declaration reflected the general position of the participants regarding the issues discussed.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In the framework of the 15th Assembly, we also held intensive discussions on the role of parliamentary diplomacy in strengthening multilateral cooperation in Asia. We all agreed that compliance with international norms and principles, effective and inclusive multilateral system are a must for dealing with all challenges, contradictions and tensions that we face today. And at such times when parliamentary cooperation platforms are becoming increasingly important, the Asian Parliamentary Assembly represents a significant multilateral institution for constructive dialogue, cooperation and solidarity.

In this regard, holding the APA Coordinating Meeting on the sidelines of the IPU Assembly will allow us to draw the attention of our parliamentarians to the issues of mutual interest and mobilize our resources to achieve common goals. I sincerely hope that our meeting today will serve these purposes.

I thank you for your attention.

Attachment II

**Asian Parliamentary Assembly
APA Coordination Meeting on the Sidelines of the 150 IPU Assembly
Tashkent- Uzbekistan
Saturday 05 April 2025
Report of the APA Secretary General**

**Madam President,
Distinguished Delegates,
Dear Colleagues,**

With much pleasure, I would like to sincerely welcome you for participating at this important APA event on the sidelines of the 150 IPU Assembly. I am also grateful to you for your keen interest to invigorate the initiative devised by the founders of this gathering nearly 19 years ago who aimed at harnessing the IPU huge potentials to harvest the IPU experiences in advancing parliamentary diplomacy within the APA community.

Also, my thanks go to the far-sighted initiators whose leadership and valuable insights triggered the initiative fostering the idea for adoption of the APA Resolution on Cooperation and Coordination on Major international issues of importance to APA, thus mandating the APA Secretariat to have an inclusive approach to parliamentary diplomacy and use every opportunity that would help reinforce parliamentary visions and develop parliamentary dimension of international cooperation. This is why we are encouraged ever than before to sit together every six months in the margin of the IPU Assemblies.

Therefore, let's share this valuable opportunity bestowed to us by the Almighty God to draw together and consult about the issues of common interest under the umbrella of parliamentary diplomacy here in the historical city of Tashkent at this highly critical situation when our region is under the threat of a new phase of unilateralism that tries to replace the usual practice of diplomatic visions with forceful business-oriented policies in contravention of all the international rules and norms via imposition of unilateral policies on the destiny of the Palestinian people and territorial integrity of other countries.

It is my firm conviction that we, as parliamentarians, should do everything in our power to act as the real voice of our people and rise against the new face of unilateralism that strive to undermine international norms and to jeopardize maintenance of peace and security. I earnestly

hope that our meeting today will provide us a fruitful and interactive opportunity to duly benefit from the constructive views that you would share with us to further enrich the outcome of our deliberations at this important event.

Dear Colleagues,

Let me also seize this valuable occasion to extend my heartfelt appreciation to Her Excellency Dr. Sahiba Gafarova, the honorable Speaker of the Milli Mejlis of Azerbaijan in her capacity as APA Term President for her commendable leadership since she took over the APA presidency and her thoughtful initiatives with distinctive parliamentary features in the promotion of parliamentary diplomacy as the Head of NAM **PN**. Let me also add that, in light of well -versed management of the Parliament of Azerbaijan and its honorable Speaker, we succeeded to hold the 15 APA Plenary under the theme of “*Role of parliamentary diplomacy in strengthening multilateral cooperation in Asia*,” with participation of 26 delegations from APA member parliaments mostly headed by lawmakers at the highest echelon and 7 parliamentary organizations as observers

Dear Colleagues,

It is also a great pleasure for us to be here in Tashkent, the historical capital city of Uzbekistan As a member of the APA, Uzbekistan has made tangible effort to be recognized as a country with active involvement in the international arena under the successful leadership of its bicameral legislature, *His Excellency Nuriddin Ismoilov*, *honorable Speaker of Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis* and Her Excellency Tanzila Narvayeva, the honorable Chairperson of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan for their admirable initiative providing this great opportunity to share their views on the issues of common interest. The government and parliament of the Republic of Uzbekistan really deserve to be commended for their global visions and all-inclusive outlooks for hosting 150th IPU Assembly.

Dear Colleagues,

If we are to duly follow this welcome initiative of the founders of APA, we should help further enrich the outcome of our deliberations at our sittings as member of the APA. The reason being that Asian Parliamentary Assembly is a large parliamentary body that can serve as an appropriate platform for realization of Asian common objectives in light of multilateral parliamentary cooperation.

Dear Colleagues,

Latest developments in the Middle East in the aftermath of inundated Israeli military strikes against civilians in Gaza and Lebanon over the last 18 months, has dismantled the essential infrastructure of the people of Palestine in the enclave and displaced millions of Palestinians and Lebanese people who are now living in a suffocating situation. The intention to relocate inhabitants of the Gaza Strip who are already weary of the devastating and tragic situation is another treacherous plot to support continued massacre of innocent civilians depriving them from their inevitable and inalienable rights to live in their ancestral territory occupied by the **Apartheid** regime of Israel . Recent Zionist atrocities in the Gaza Strip is a clear indication of the fact that the desire for a sustainable **ceasefire** in the enclave is but an elusive dream which never comes true .

Summary of the APA Activities in 2024 and early 2025

Dear Colleagues

As per usual practice, let me make a brief reference to the APA activities and its future programs since our last Coordination Meeting alongside the 149 IPU Assembly in Geneva to be followed by the APA calendar of events in the coming months.

During the year 2024 and early days of 2025, APA could successfully cover up all its regular programs according to the scheduled calendar.

A. Meetings of the Standing Committees:

The four APA Vice-Presidents, Russia, Qatar, Bahrain and Iraq hosted and chaired their concerned Standing Committee Meetings respectively with successful outcomes.

The Second meeting of the Committee on Palestine was also held on the sidelines of the APA Standing Committee on Political Affairs in Baghdad .

B- APA 15 Plenary:

The 15th Plenary was held on 17-21 February 2025 in Baku, capital city of the Republic of Azerbaijan with participation of 26 APA Member Parliaments and 7 parliamentary organization as observers.

On of the most important decisions of this Plenary was the election of the new presidents for the future terms to 2028. The kingdom of Bahrain will take over the APA Presidency for the year 2026 and the two following years term in 2027-2028 the APA Presidency will be entrusted to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

APA Vice-Presidents for 2025,:

Russia, Qatar and Bahrain were endorsed to continue their terms as the Chair and host of their concerned Standing Committee meeting as before. The Executive Council also endorsed candidacy of Iran as Vice-President to host and chair the Standing Committee on Political Affairs in 2025.

Other important Decisions:

The request of Sultanate of Oman for affiliation to the APA as a full member and also request of Belarus to be granted observer status in APA were adopted.

The 15th Plenary finally concluded the meeting following adoption of an all-inclusive documents, namely Baku Declaration. The final outcome document underlined Parliaments and their constructive initiatives in strengthening and advancing multilateral cooperation in Asia and rejection of any coercive measures against any member state.

Thank you for your attention

Attachment III



GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF TÜRKİYE
Foreign Relations and Protocol Department

ADDRESS BY MR. ABDULKADİR EMİN ÖNEN
ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (APA) MEETING TO BE HELD IN THE
MARGIN OF INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION
(March 5-9, 2025, Tashkent/Uzbekistan)

Dear Chair,

Dear Members of Parliaments

I am very pleased to meet you again on the occasion of the IPU meeting.

I would like to thank the parliament of Uzbekistan and the chairwoman of the parliament, Mrs. Tenzile NARBAYEVA, for their generous hospitality. I would like to also express thanks to the Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly of Asia.

As the heart of Central Asia, Uzbekistan plays a vital role in international affairs, linking East and West through trade, diplomacy, and cultural heritage. The cities of Samarkand, Bukhara, and Khiva tell the story of a civilization that has shaped global heritage for centuries.

Türkiye-Uzbekistan relations are multidimensional, comprehensive and deep. Our cooperation in the fields of transportation, trade, culture and tourism are important elements of our deep-rooted relations.

Our world is going through a period of great turmoil. In such times, I consider it highly important and valuable initiative for world's parliaments to come together, address global issues, and seek common solutions. In this context, I find the theme of the Inter-Parliamentary Union on parliamentary action for social development and justice very valuable. I firmly believe that through dialogue and cooperation, we can contribute to a more just, stable, and sustainable future.

Türkiye attaches great priority to inter parliamentary relations. Grand National of Türkiye, has friendship groups with parliaments of almost 150 states at the moment. This is probably a record.

Dear Chair,

Positive steps taken by the new Syrian government to foster unity and stability—where peace and tranquility prevail, and where different religious and ethnic groups live side by side in harmony—should be supported. We should not let any provocation undermine the hard-won peace and disrupt positive course in Syria after so many years. It is crucial that the international community helps the Syrian people overcome these challenges and establish a more stable government. We should support new Syria government endeavors to keep Syria away from the spill-over effects of regional conflicts. This is crucial for regional stability and security.

In addition to supporting the positive steps taken in Syria, we are also strengthening our strategic cooperation with our neighbors. The Development Road Project is particularly important in this regard. This strategic project offers a valuable and feasible opportunity to connect Asia to Europe and beyond. It is not an alternative but rather complementary to other transportation corridors. It also presents vast opportunities for new industrial investments and energy routes, enhanced economic interaction, etc.

Dear Friends,

Israel broke ceasefire and massacred hundreds of people, including women and children, in Gaza. The Israeli government, which has lost of all credibility in the international arena, has trampled on humanity. The ceasefire in Gaza must be permanent. It is not the time to adopt a “wait and see” approach. We must be proactive to protect the Palestinian people.

International community must help achieve just and lasting peace based on the two-state solution. The “Global Alliance Initiative for the Implementation of the Two-State Solution” is the output of the dialogue between EU and the OIC-AL Contact Group for Gaza. It helps maintain the momentum in international fora on the need for implementation of the two-state solution. It is also crucial that urgent aid and basic necessities reach Gaza as soon as possible to prevent further deepening of the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

Dear Chair,

In 2024, significant steps were taken to move the Asian Parliamentary Assembly forward. The most important of these is the clarification of matter about financial contributions. I hope that the APA budget will be implemented this year after necessary arrangement are finalized. Additionally, the definition of the main organs of the APA has strengthened the institutional structure of the Assembly.

I hope that, our efforts in 2025 will be more productive and effective.

Thank you for your attention.

Attachment IV

Remarks by Dr. Rizvan Nabiyeu

Dear Speaker of the parliament of the State of Qatar,

Dear Dr. Majidi, Secretary General,

Honorable Members of the Parliaments,

I would like to extend my thanks to Her Excellency Professor Sahiba Gafarova, the Speaker of the Parliament of Azerbaijan and to Dr. Mohammed Reza Majidi for their valuable thoughts on the important topic of multilateralism, the role of parliamentary diplomacy and other current matters.

I would also like to briefly share my views on these topics. Multilateral cooperation is essential for addressing the region's shared challenges. In this context, the role of interparliamentary organizations are also essential in uniting the efforts of countries in the Asian region. This is where parliamentary diplomacy plays a crucial role. This independent tool in international affairs empowers parliamentarians, national parliaments and interparliamentary organizations to influence global policy in a collaborative way.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are deeply concerned about the escalation of tension in the Middle East. Unfortunately, one of the most pressing problems in the region is the situation in Gaza. The severe tragedy in Gaza must be urgently brought to an end, the war halted, and all outstanding issues addressed through peaceful negotiations.

-We express our profound concern over the reports on a possible expansion of the geographic scope of the hostilities and highlight the importance of restraint. All violations of international law, including fundamental norms and principles of international humanitarian law, and undermining the prospects of peace negotiations must be unequivocally condemned.

-At this critical moment, we would like to reaffirm our unrelenting support to the legitimate struggle of the Palestinian People for statehood, peace and stability, and a bright future.

- Azerbaijan believes that a two-state solution for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, with East Jerusalem as the capital of the State of Palestine, is the only viable way to achieve long-awaited peace and stability.

- We have taken measures to alleviate the plight of the Palestinian People in light of the worsening livelihood and dire humanitarian situation. Over the last decade, Azerbaijan has made a financial contribution worth millions USD to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East to help the people on the ground.

- As a responsible member of international community, we will continue to support the efforts to achieve a just, lasting, and peaceful solution to the issue of Palestine in all its aspects in line with fundamental norms and principles of international law

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In accordance with the theme of the General Debate regarding Parliamentary action for social development and justice, I would like to share my views on this theme.

Consequently, I would also like to shed light on the devastating effects of the 30-year long and already resolved conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia, a conflict that has taken an immense toll on Azerbaijani women the unsung heroes and the hidden victims of this prolonged and brutal conflict. The consequences of this bloody conflict have been felt on a deeply personal level, especially by women. One of the most harrowing impacts of the war on Azerbaijani women has been the displacement. Hundreds of thousands of Azerbaijani civilians were forced to flee their homes in the occupied areas, becoming refugees and internally displaced persons. Among the most vulnerable in this mass exodus were women and children, who found themselves without homes, without a sense of security, and without the support systems that had once been there for them.

I would like to briefly talk about the Azerbaijan 2030: National Priorities of Socio-Economic Development, with five main pillars, which was endorsed in 2021. Due to the time limit I would like to inform You only about the fourth pillar, which encompasses THE GREAT RETURN TO THE TERRITORIES LIBERATED FROM OCCUPATION.

Ensuring the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan occupies an important place in the centuries-old history of our people. By restoring state borders, the Azerbaijani people have achieved the greatest victory in the military and diplomatic spheres of the past century. In order to perpetuate this victory, it is necessary to ensure the return of peoples who have been displaced from their native lands. This Great Return will become a bridge for the sustainable resettlement of our citizens into the territories liberated from occupation and for the integration of these territories into our country's economic activity.

The restoration of a new international and regional transport and logistics corridor in the greater Karabakh region will not only expand the country's access to global markets, but also give significant impetus to the development of the previously occupied territories.

As peacefully as was once the case, it is necessary to ensure the safe living of people returning to these territories, and the region should become one of the most prosperous areas of the country. To restore dignified livelihoods, which form the basis of modern life, creativity must be achieved in all areas. This should be done based on incentives and within the framework of the development of public-private partnerships. Only under such conditions can the full integration of the territories liberated from occupation be enshrined into the great future of Azerbaijan.

Honorable colleagues,

I am about to conclude my remarks.

Azerbaijan is working to overcome the consequences of the three-decade military occupation of its territories by Armenia.

The formerly occupied territories of Azerbaijan, 7 cities and more than 300 villages have suffered unprecedented destruction. The city of Aghdam, left in ruins, is tragically called the

"Hiroshima of the Caucasus." The cultural heritage, including almost all the Mosques were destroyed or desecrated. It is also crucial to address the fate of around 4,000 Azerbaijanis who went missing during the First Karabakh War in the early 1990s.

Despite these challenges, Azerbaijan has been undertaking extensive post-conflict reconstruction efforts in the liberated territories to facilitate the "Great Return" of 700,000 internally displaced persons from Karabakh and surrounding regions.

Meanwhile, around 300,000 Azerbaijani refugees from Armenia — distinct from internally displaced persons from Karabakh — also remain displaced from their ancestral homes. These Azerbaijani refugees were forcibly expelled from Armenia in the late 1980s and subjected to ethnic cleansing. Despite repeated appeals by the Western Azerbaijani Community, which represents the Azerbaijani refugees from Armenia, to engage in a dialogue about their safe and dignified return, the Armenian government denies them the fundamental right of return. This right is enshrined in various international human rights instruments and should be implemented for the sake of peace and stability and historic justice.

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

We will continue to support efforts to achieve a just, lasting, and peaceful resolution to all outstanding issues in the greater Asian region in accordance with the fundamental norms and principles of international law.

Thank you very much.