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## Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development

(Virtual Meeting)  
Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain  
20 May 2021

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# Final Report

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The Virtual Meeting of Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development was held on May 20, 2021 in Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain.

The Meeting hosted by Council of Representatives of the Kingdom of Bahrain and parliamentary delegations from following 20 member countries registered to participate in the Meeting:

Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Cyprus, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Mongolia, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Turkey, UAE, Vietnam and Yemen. ([Attachment I](#))

Opening Session:

The following dignitaries presented their pre-recorded statements:

- 1- H.E. Ahmed Alsalloom, M.P. Head of APA Group of Bahrain ([Attachment II](#))
- 2- H.E. Dr. M.R. MAJIDI APA Secretary General ([Attachment III](#))

### 1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Member Parliaments unanimously adopted the Draft Agenda. Agenda and Program of Work are attached. ([Attachment IV](#)).

### 2. Opening remarks by the Chairman

H.E. Alsalloom as the Chairman of the meeting welcomed all participants.

### 3. Statement by the Representative of the APA President

H.E. Mrs. A. ERDOGAN AS the Representative of the APA President presented her statement. ([Attachment V](#))

#### 4. Report of the APA Secretary General

APA Secretary General reported on major issues of the draft Resolutions of the Standing Committee. ([Attachment VI](#))

#### 5. Consideration and Recommendations on the Draft Resolutions:

The Chair realizing the fact that participants should have received and studied the draft Resolutions as well as relevant amendments prior to attending the meeting, ruled that the following documents would be adopted as a whole unless otherwise requested. ([Attachment VII](#))

##### - Draft Resolution on the Establishment of an Asian Energy Market

Participants considered and debated this draft resolution. Operative para 4 was deleted and the draft resolution was adopted with proposed amendments.

##### - Draft Resolution on Environmental Issues

This draft resolution along with its amendments was adopted. Preamble Para 13 was retained in its original form.

##### - Draft Resolution on Financial Affairs: Ensuring Efforts for Economic Growth

The Chair ruled that this draft resolution be deferred to the next meeting for further consideration. Operative Para 23 is retained without changes. The Chair requested the Secretariat to provide information and clarification on Operative Para 5 and 20 of this resolution.

##### - Draft Resolution on Poverty Eradication

The draft resolution was adopted with its amended Para.

##### - Draft Resolution on the Role of APA Parliaments in Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals:

The draft resolution was adopted with proposed amendments.

##### - Draft Resolution on Water and Sanitation in Asia for All

Due to request of a member country, this resolution was deferred to the next meeting.

- Draft Resolution on Adopting a Road Map Providing for Measures to Stimulate Green Finance:

This draft resolution was adopted without any changes.

- Draft Resolution on Asian Climate Financial Initiative (New Russia):

Participants considered and supported the above draft resolution with its amendments.

#### 6. Report by Chair of the Working Group on Green Funding (Russia)

The Head of Russian delegation presented the report of this working group. The Chair requested the report to be sent to the Secretariat for circulation.

#### 7. Report by Chair of the Working Group on Integrated Asian Energy Market (Kuwait):

The Chair ruled that due to absent of delegation of Kuwait this report will be presented to the next meeting.

#### 8. Report by Chair of the Working Group on Water Crisis (Iran):

Delegation of Iran presented its report. The Chair requested the report to be sent to the Secretariat for its circulation. ([Attachment VIII](#))

#### 9. Adoption of the Final Report.

The Chair called on the Secretariat to prepare the final report of the meeting by May 24, 2021 and send it to Participants.

Before closing the session, APA Secretary General stated that:

- Our immense appreciation goes to the Council of Representatives of Bahrain for successfully hosting our meeting today.
- We request for a member parliament to host the Working Group meeting on Statutory Documents ASAP.
- Awaiting the exact date for St.Com. on Budget and Planning by Russia.

- Iran to announce the date for St.Com. on Cultural Affairs.
- Iraq to announce the date for St.Com. on Political Affairs.

#### 10. Any Other Matters

(The meeting started at 07:00 and ended at 12:30 GMT.).

No issue was raised.

## Attachment I



### ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY



### **Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development (Virtual Meeting)**

(5/24/2021 by APA Secretariat)

Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain  
20 May 2021

### List of Participants

No.	Country	First Name	Last Name	Position
1	Azerbaijan	Ganira	Pashayeva	MP/ Head of the Delegation to APA/the Head of the Cultural Committee of the Milli Majlis
2	Azerbaijan	Afag	Hasanova	Head of Division /International Relations Department of the Office of Milli Majlis/APA delegation Secretary
3	Bahrain	HE Mr. AHMED	ALSALLOOM	Member of Council of Representatives- Head of Delegation
4	Bahrain	HE Dr. ABDULAZIZ	ABUL	Member of Shura Council
5	Bahrain	HE Dr. Mohamed	Alkhozai	Member of Shura Council
6	Bahrain	HE Mr. Hamad	Alkooheji	Member of Council of Representatives
7	Bahrain	HE Mr. Fouad	Alhaji	Member of Shura Council
8	Bahrain	Mr. Mohamed	Bin Daina	Parliamentary Relation Development Specialist – Council of Representatives
9	Bangladesh	Kazi	Ahmed	Hon'ble Member of Parliament
10	Bhutan	BIMAL	THAPA	Member of Parliament
11	Cambodia	Hon. Kim Yeat	CHHIT	Vice- Chairman of the Commission on Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, Media and Information (Senator), Head of Delegation
12	Cambodia	Hon. Yara	SUOS	Vice- Chairman of the Commission on Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, Media and Information, Member (MP)
13	Cambodia	Hon. Socheath	NGUON	Member of the Commission on Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, Media and Information, Member (MP)

14	Cambodia	H.E. Mr. Bunly	HOK	Deputy director of International Relation Department of the Secretariat-General of the National Assembly, Assistant
15	Cambodia	Mr. Thy	SENG	Chief of the International Relations Office of the Secretariat-General of the National Assembly, Assistant
16	Cyprus	Loukia	Mouyi	International Relations Officer A', Secretary of Cyprus delegation to the APA
17	Indonesia	Hon. Mr. Adrian Jopie	Paruntu	Member of the House Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation, MEMBER OF DELEGATION
18	Indonesia	Mr. Anak Agung Ngurah Andy	Laksmna	Counsellor Ministry of Foreign Affairs ADVISER TO DELEGATION
19	Indonesia	Mr. Fajar	Firdaus	Second Secretary Ministry of Foreign Affairs ADVISER TO DELEGATION
20	Indonesia	Mr. Heriyono	Adi Anggoro	Expertise of the Committee for Inter-parliamentary Cooperation ADVISER TO DELEGATION
21	Iran	Ms. Masoumeh	PASHAEI BAHRAM	Chairperson of the APA Group and HEAD OF DELEGATION, Member of Parliament
22	Iran	Mr Gholamreza	NooriGhezeljeh	Member of Parliament
23	Iraq	Mr. Rami	Mohammed	Member of Parliament
24	Mongolia	TSERENPUNTSAG	TSEDENDAMBA	Member ofParliament
25	Pakistan	Anwaar-ul-Haq	Kakar	SENATOR
26	Philippines	KRISTINE	SINGSON-MEEHAN	DEPUTY SPEAKER
27	Philippines	FRANCISCO	BENITEZ	CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
28	Philippines	GLENDALE	CORNELIO	DELEGATIONSECRETARY
29	Philippines	LOURDES RAJINI	RYE	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, INTER-PARLIAMENTARY RELATIONS AND SPECIAL AFFAIRS BUREAU
30	Philippines	ANN MARIE	SANTOS	STAFF
31	Philippines	MARIE LORAINE	AYSON-INTON	STAFF

32	Philippines	GERRIANNA	BAJA	STAFF
33	Qatar	Mr. Ali	Bin Abd Al-Latif Al-Muhanadi	Member of Parliament
34	Russia	Alexey	Lyashchenko	Head of Russian Delegation
35	Russia	Anton	Rybak	Member of Russian Delegation
36	Saudi Arabia	Hani	Khashoggi	MP
37	Saudi Arabia	Iyas	Alhajri	MP
38	Saudi Arabia	Abdulaziz	Alzahrani	Advisor
39	Thailand	Hon. Mr. Issara	SEREEWATTHANAWUT	Member of the House of Representatives
40	Thailand	Hon Mr. Don	HETRAKUL	Member of the House of Representatives
41	Thailand	Ms.Kanteera	LEELANOND	Secretary to the delegation
42	Thailand	Ms.Wichayaporn	PATADEE	Assistant Secretary to the delegation
43	Turkey	ASUMAN	ERDOĞAN	Member of Parliament Head of Delegation
44	Turkey	MÜŞERREF PERVİN TUBA	DURGUT	Member of Parliament Member of Delegation
45	Turkey	RAMAZAN	CAN	Member of Parliament Member of Delegation
46	Turkey	GÖKMEN	TOPLU	Deputy Director of Foreign Relations And Protocol Dept. of Gnat
47	Turkey	MURAT	HASTÜRK	Foreign Relations And Protocol Dept. of Gnat
48	Turkey	REZAK	TAVLI	Foreign Relations And Protocol Dept. of Gnat
49	Turkey	F.SİREL	DELİLOĞLU	Foreign Relations And Protocol Dept. of Gnat
50	UAE	H.E. Mohamed	Al Ali	Head of Delegation / Member
51	UAE	H.E. Dr. Nedal	Al Teneigi	Member
52	UAE	H.E. Ayesha	Almulla	Member
53	Vietnam	Mr. Ba Dinh	Truc	officer of the Foreign Affairs Department, Office of the National Assembly
54	Yemen	Shooghi	Shamsan	Member of Parliament
55	Yemen	Najib	Ghanem	Member of Parliament
56	Yemen	Amin	Zahreh	Protocol and Public Relations Department Head
57	APA Secretariat	Mr. Mohammad Reza	MAJIDI	Secretary General of APA

58	APA Secretariat	Amb. Mr. Kia	TABATABAEE	Deputy Secretary General of APA
59	APA Secretariat	Mr. Mehdi	GHASHGHAVI	Executive Deputy of Secretariat
60	APA Secretariat	Mr. Mehdi	MOLLAHOSSEINI	APA Senior Expert
61	APA Secretariat	Mr. Javad	HASHEMI	APA Director of International Affairs
62	APA Secretariat	Mr. Saeed	SOHRABINIA	APA Director of Information Technology



## Attachment II

Your Excellency Dr. Mohammed Reza Majidi  
Secretary General of Asian Parliamentary Assembly

Ladies and Gentlemen Members of the Economic Affairs and Sustainable Development Committee

At the outset, I would like to convey to you the greetings of Her Excellency Mrs. Fawzia bint Abdullah Zainal, Speaker of the Council of Representatives in the Kingdom of Bahrain, and His Excellency Mr. Ali bin Saleh Al-Saleh, Speaker of the Shura Council. It is my pleasure and honor to chair the meeting of your esteemed committee today that addresses one of the most important issues that concern countries and governments at present. Sustainable development is of special importance to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, save was always accorded as a top priority in the work platform of His Majesty, especially since His Majesty inaugurated in October 2008 Bahrain Vision 2030, which was a forerunner in this field. It is based on principles sustainability, fairness, and competitiveness. The government has also undertaken various steps and initiatives to achieve the goals of sustainable development and is keen to put into effect His Majesty's vision by aligning the government plans and work programs with the sustainable development goals for a better future for all, more prosperity, stability, and prosperity within the framework of the reform project of His Majesty, and in light of his prosperous reign.

Respected Members,

Our committee meeting is being held today after an abruption of more than a year that was imposed by the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, which continues to have dire effects and impacts on various aspects of life in all societies; particularly those related to economic affairs and sustainable development issues that were at the forefront of the most affected by the outbreak of the pandemic and its implications.

I see in our gathering today an appropriate opportunity for consultations and exchange of views on work priorities in the coming period, in a way that promotes the adoption of a unified Asian response that addresses with the current situation with a coherent and unified approach, and ensures that economic issues and the sustainable development goals are at the forefront of efforts responding to the pandemic and the recovery from it, and reflecting the pandemic negative impact on these areas, in a way that guarantees the achievement of progress, prosperity, development and prosperity of our peoples; all of which we have always sought to achieve in commitment to the great responsibility that our peoples have bestowed upon us.

As you may notice, the items on the agenda of today's meeting, which was adopted shortly ago, reveal the magnitude of the challenges facing the people of Asia, which are closely associated with the areas of the committee's work, whether being related to the Covid-19 pandemic and efforts to respond to it and recover from it, or what is related in general to the economic issues and sustainable development goals on which the work of the committee has focused since inception, as It had creative initiatives in this regard that should be taken seriously, spread it within our legislative institutions, transfer the same to our respective governments for implementation, and follow up on that implementation. This should achieve a qualitative leap in addressing sustainable development issues in the Asian continent. We are in dire need of it today more than ever, and to elevate the frameworks of cooperation and coordination among Asian countries on these issues to promising and more expansive horizons, in the benefit and prosperity of our peoples.

Finally, I thank you for giving me this opportunity, and I wish you all success, and that we leave today's meeting with a consensus that communicates with the hopes and aspirations that we endeavor to achieve.

I give the floor now to His Excellency the Secretary General of the Assembly.

Thank you

## Attachment III

### **Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development (Virtual Meeting)**

Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain  
May 20, 2021

#### **Statement of the APA Secretary General**

Mr. Chairman

Distinguished Delegates

Dear Colleagues

I have the honor to welcome you all to the first APA regular meeting being held in virtual format since the outbreak of the corona virus pandemic in December 2019.

I also appreciate the APA Presidency supporting the Secretariat initiative to hold APA regular meetings virtually. At the same time, allow me to seize this opportunity to thank the Council of Representative of the Kingdom of Bahrain who took the burden of holding this virtual meeting.

Before I begin with presentation of my report, I deem it necessary to extend my wholehearted gratitude to all the APA members and their diplomatic missions in Tehran for sharing sympathy with us on the demise of H.E Mr. Mohammad Hadi Nejad Hosseinian, former APA Secretary General who greatly contributed to the advancement of our Organization.

Dear Colleagues,

At the opening of our meeting today, I would like to touch on certain challenges facing us since the outbreak of global pandemic. However, we have been lucky enough to some extent to cope with the new emerging situation and continue our work with the support of your parliaments and insightful leadership of our president, parliament of Turkey.

Under such circumstances and in a bid to nurture a purposeful vision and taking regular action that leads us to the gradual realization of our action plans in future, most particularly before return to full normalcy, I intend to communicate with your parliament in search for an exemplary support and solidarity of the APA Member Countries.

The essence of my letter is:

1. The need to have a supervisory organ mandated with the task of monitoring and coordinating activities of the Standing Committees,
2. As currently there is no structural link among the Standing Committees, each Committee runs its own business separately,
3. To ascertain that regular business of the Committees are aligned with the APA objectives, a fully authorized organ should be foreseen in the hierarchical structure of the APA to oversee the work of committees in a coordinated manner,
4. This supervisory body may set standards, define objectives, recommend new topics and drop

out unnecessary and redundant documents etc for each Committee. Also as a crucial part of its responsibility, to streamline, inter alia, the letters and work of the Committees, and proceed to find the host country for various APA Meetings.

To this end, we believe that the APA Bureau consisting of the President, Chairman of the four Standing Committees, the Rapporteur and Secretary General constitute a well versed entity to shoulder the itemized list of tasks enumerated above and decided accordingly at its regular meetings. In our opinion, it is only in light of this procedural change that the APA can successfully continue its work as active and living organization.

Thank you very much



## Attachment IV

# Asian Parliamentary Assembly Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development (Virtual Meeting)



(5/10/2021 by APA Secretariat)

Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain  
May 20, 2021

### Draft Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Opening remarks by the Chairperson
3. Statement by Representative of APA President
4. Report of the APA Secretary General
5. Consideration and Recommendations on the Draft Resolutions:
  - Draft Resolution on the Establishment of an Asian Energy Market
  - Draft Resolution on Environmental Issues
  - Draft Resolution on Financial Affairs: Ensuring Efforts for Economic Growth
  - Draft Resolution on Poverty Eradication
  - Draft Resolution on the Role of APA Parliaments in Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals
  - Draft Resolution on Water and Sanitation in Asia for All
  - Draft Resolution on Adopting a Road Map Providing for Measures to Stimulate Green Finance
  - Draft Resolution on Asian Climate Financial Initiative (New Russia)
6. Report by Chair of the Working Group on Green Funding ( Russia)
7. Report by Chair of the Working Group on Integrated Asian Energy Market (Kuwait)
8. Report by Chair of the Working Group on Water Crisis (Iran)
9. Adoption of the Final Report.
10. Any Other Matters



Asian Parliamentary Assembly  
**Standing Committee on Economic  
and Sustainable Development**  
**(Virtual Meeting)**



(5/10/2021 by APA Secretariat)

Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain  
May 20, 2021

**Program of Work**

20 May 2021	
07:00 - 07:15 (GMT)	- <b>Opening of the meeting,</b> - <b>Adoption of Agenda</b>
07:15 - 07:30 (GMT)	- <b>Opening Remarks by Chairperson</b> - <b>Statement by Rep. of APA President</b> - <b>Report of the Secretary General:</b>
07:30 - 11:00 11:00 - 11:30 (GMT)	- <b>Consideration of Draft Resolutions</b> - <b>Reports of the Working Groups</b>
11:30 - 12:30 (GMT)	- <b>Lunch Break</b>
12:30 (GMT)	- <b>Adoption of Final Report</b>

## Attachment V

### **Statement by H.E. Ms. Asuman ERDOĞAN, Chairperson of Turkish Delegation to the Asian Parliamentary Assembly**

Honorable Secretary-General

Honorable Delegations

Distinguished Participants,

First of all, due to the recent criminal acts and humanitarian crises committed, once again, by the Israeli authorities, I would like to seize this opportunity to strongly condemn and denounce the Israeli state for its inhumane and lethal offensive and indiscriminate criminal assaults against the innocent Palestinian civilians irrespective of infants, children, women, elderly, and for its unlawful demolition of Palestinian homes, forced eviction and displacement of the Palestinians and for its expansionist settlement policies across the Occupied Palestinian Territories, as well as for its heinous desecration of and offensive against the holy sanctuaries and human dignity.

As such, I deem it a moral duty and obligation to call for the whole world and international community to take immediate action to halt and prevent the ongoing violence perpetuated by the Israeli occupation authorities, which have already caused the loss of too many defenseless civilian lives, among whom are many children. Furthermore, I also consider that it is a moral obligation for all humanity to stand by the innocent Palestinian people and support their honorable cause for justice, independence and freedom.

As Members of APA, we always draw particular attention to the Palestinian issue and express our full supports in our meetings and other platforms to the Palestinian People in their legitimate cause for freedom, issuing related resolutions under the APA umbrella. I would like to articulate once again, that the problems of Palestinian People will and should remain one of the main concern under the APA agenda and call for our members to stand resolutely against the Israeli atrocities.

As for the meeting, I would like to begin by thanking His Excellency Mr. Ahmad ALSALLOM, Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development, the Parliament of Bahrain and APA Secretariat for their invaluable efforts in preparing this video conference on the previously agreed date. I also would like to thank all APA Member Parliaments and distinguished delegations for their presence in the meeting and contributions to the meeting.

Exacerbated by the adverse effects of climate change, environmental problems such as pollution, contamination, extreme weather events, loss of biodiversity, land degradation, desertification and water scarcity, are all intertwined phenomena and global in nature; therefore, they impact every country and require an international response. As such, combating climate change and its global adverse effects necessitates close regional and international cooperation.

The global outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has been exerting additional pressures on the environment today. Thus, green recovery provides an opportunity to restore growth and create new employment alternatives while achieving concrete results on global environmental issues.

There is no doubt that joint implementation of the three UN conventions on the environment, namely climate change, combating desertification and biological diversity will foster efforts

towards a sustainable environment and development. The socio-economic implications of our actions to achieve sustainable development will bring us closer to the objective of leaving no one behind in a more prosperous world. That is why integrating sustainable development perspective and Sustainable Development Goals targets into the national development plans and policies are essential. Closely coordinated measures at both regional and international levels are indispensable to this end. It is also important to include all stakeholders in these processes. The cooperation among Parliaments may immensely contribute to the steps towards those endeavors. Special commissions of parliaments can raise awareness for environmental issues and strengthen the legislation.

Turkey's national development plans are being prepared with this perspective. Turkey is determined to contribute to the regional and global efforts and initiatives in tackling environmental challenges.

Faced with the urgency of climate change, many regions in the world including Asia has been facing more frequent, severe and longer-lasting extreme weather events, water cycle, temperature changes and sea-level rise. This is also leading to a severe situation of water scarcity. We need to step up our efforts to address the water challenges of our region also through promoting societal awareness of water conservation and storage as well as the development of alternative water sources.

Turkey attributes high importance to ensure access to drinking water and sanitation for all. In Turkey, almost all the population has access to improved water sources, reliable wastewater and sewerage services. Turkey has been adapting its water policy to the recent challenges and developments at the global level, to meet the needs of Turkey's present and future generations as well as the needs of our neighbors. Turkey has well-established water institutions and has gained great experience over the decades. Accordingly, Turkey has made great strides for sustainable and integrated management of its water resources. Turkey can share its knowledge and experience in Asia, with the interested countries in the region.

It is estimated that the financial gap to reach SDG6 by 2030 will require mobilizing an additional US\$ 1.7 trillion, three times more than the current level of investments. In the meantime, to meet the very basic water and sanitation goals of SDG 6, there is a need to increase the current level of investments four times for "water" and six times for "sanitation". The economic impacts of Covid-19 and large investment gaps require further innovative financing models. In order to close the gap, the partnership of governments with a diverse group of stakeholders, especially the private sector as well as philanthropic organizations has become even more important.

Paris Agreement is a milestone in climate action. However, to achieve the goals of the Agreement, it is essential to ensure a fair framework based on principles of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. In this regard, our priority is to ensure equal and fair treatment with the countries having similar economic levels with us under the climate regime.

As Turkey, our understanding is that the efforts related to combating climate change should be realized by taking into account the guiding principles of the climate regime, which are "equity, common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities." We are of the view that parliaments have a crucial role in raising awareness of the adverse effects of climate change. Parliaments can also contribute to provide a fairground for all and create the required



environment for partnership and cooperation between countries. In this regard, Parliaments should assume a complementary role for the global climate regime. As a developing country, we believe that developed countries should support developing countries with adequate financial and technical support for their climate action. Although Turkey is classified as a developing country by international organizations including the IMF, World Bank, UN and OECD, we are not able to benefit from Green Climate Fund (GCF) and technology transfer due to our status under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). In this regard, our understanding is that all developing countries should enjoy the climate financial funds, programs and technology transfer without any obstacle. Being aware of the urgency of climate action, Turkey remains committed to take and implement the necessary measures to protect our planet and combat all climate-related challenges on equal terms with the countries having similar development levels. Meanwhile, Turkey remains committed to implementing the necessary measures to protect our planet and overcome the challenges related to climate change on equal terms with the countries having similar development levels.

We believe that energy security and increased connectivity are essential and conducive for economic viability and sustainable growth, as well as for addressing the adverse impacts of climate change. Energy also has a critical role in the successful implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We acknowledge the important role of the parliaments in fostering the positive contribution of energy to SDGs in a wide spectrum covering passing needed legislation to working with private and public sectors to parliamentary contacts between countries. We support an integrated approach to energy production in Asia with a view to promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency. We hope that an Asian Energy Market will contribute to new projects and partnerships in this respect. We are also looking forward to working closely with the respective parliaments in potential areas of cooperation to achieve more efficient and sustainable energy for all.

Turkey has adopted sustainable and inclusive development as its main policy and has put people at the centre of its development agenda. Consequently, Turkey has made significant progress in poverty eradication, better income distribution and equal opportunities in accessing basic services. Given the current circumstances where the differences between various countries and groups in terms of income, welfare, development, employment and social conditions are key sources of conflicts or factors that deepen the current conflicts, Turkey considers development as a global right for everyone. With this understanding, Turkey is working relentlessly to create a common understanding and to promote effective policies and measures at all relevant international platforms.

Thank you!

## Attachment VI

### Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development

#### (Virtual Meeting)

Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain

May 20, 2021

#### Report of the APA Secretary General

**Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished Delegate,  
Dear Colleagues,**

As you may recall, at its meeting of April 2019, in Naryan-Mar, Russian Federation, the Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development discussed and adopted the following seven draft resolutions:

1. Draft Resolution on the Establishment of an Asian Energy Market
2. Draft Resolution on Environmental Issues
3. Draft Resolution on Financial Affairs: Ensuring Efforts for Economic Growth
4. Draft Resolution on Poverty Eradication
5. Draft Resolution on Water and Sanitation in Asia for All
6. Draft Resolution on the Role of APA Parliaments in Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals
7. Draft Resolution on Adopting a Roadmap Providing for Measures to Stimulate Green Finance.

A brief summary of the mentioned drafts read as follows:

- Draft Resolution on “*Establishment of an Asian Energy Market*”,

As you may also recall, in the course of its deliberations in Narayan-Mar,

Chairman of the Working Group on Energy (Kuwait) was tasked to merge the Draft resolution on “Asian Integrated Energy Market” with “Establishment of an Asian Energy Market”. The merged draft was later submitted to the First Executive Committee Meeting in Rize, Turkey and adopted by the 12th APA Plenary Session in Antalya, Turkey.

- Draft Resolution on “*Water and sanitation in Asia for all*”

The Standing Committee in Naryan-Mar postponed deliberations on this draft until its next meeting due to significant numbers of amendments and multiplicity of views.

However, at its later Session during the 12<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session in Antalya, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development concluded that the *initial version* of the Draft

resolution on “Water and Sanitation in Asia for All” to be accepted as the basis for future work of the Committee in Bahrain. Therefore, our deliberation today is focused on the initial version of the Draft Resolution on “*Water and sanitation in Asia for All*”.

➤ Draft Resolution on “*Adopting a Roadmap Providing for Measures to Stimulate Green Finance*”

This draft resolution was introduced by Russian Federation and adopted by the Standing Committee in Naryan-Mar on April 2019. However, in September 2020, the APA Secretariat received a new draft resolution on “Asian climate financial initiative”. The Russian delegation as author of the new proposed draft resolution, requested to circulate the new draft for consideration at this meeting.

These are the main items of our agenda today. Before we start consideration of the draft resolutions, it is important to note that this is the first virtual meeting of the APA Standing Committees, being held under the “*Special Rules of Procedure to Regulate the Conduct of APA Virtual Meetings*”. Therefore, your full cooperation with the honorable Chairman, H.E. Mr. Al Saloum, is duly expected in order to have a smooth running of the meeting.

Thank you very much

## Attachment VII



Asian  
Parliamentary  
Assembly

SC-Economic/Draft Res/2021/01

20 May 2021

Bahrain (Virtual Meeting)

### **Draft Resolution on the Establishment of an Asian Energy Market**

*We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,*

*Recalling* the United Nations' 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) adopted by world leaders in September 2015 for a more prosperous future, and that is through the promotion of prosperity, increase of social welfare, and protection of the planet,

*Calling upon* Asian parliaments to fulfill their commitments on reducing the effects of climate change in accordance with the principles of equity, common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, to adopt effective policies to improve the use of natural resources in Asia and to promote economic growth,

*Suggesting* the establishment of clean energy markets that will enable Asian countries make optimal utilization of their natural resources and export the surplus to other Asian countries,

*Stressing on* the importance of protecting and developing this important sector which plays an integral role in the prosperity of Asian societies,

*Believing* that an Asian Energy Market will contribute in creating energy production projects, in particular renewable energy projects, which will provide for investment partnership opportunities for the establishment of alternative energy projects between the public and private sector, and among countries of the Asian continent,

*Aiming to* realize four of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) 2030 by the use of green energy instead of traditional energy sources, achieve economic growth, and reduce poverty through job creation and the creation of partnerships among Asian countries,

*Supporting* the efforts to reduce the use of fossil fuels gradually in a way that does not harm their economic growth as they produce the highest greenhouse emissions, and the creation of competitive markets for sustainable energy according to national circumstances, needs and priorities,

*Realizing* that the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic has impeded local efforts in many countries of the continent to fulfill previously made climate commitments, such as postponing important climate initiatives, suspending programs to "reduce carbon emissions", and extending deadlines granted to companies to meet environmental standards Postponing tenders to build several renewable energy projects,

*Stressing* the importance of joint efforts by Asian countries to provide energy at reasonable prices for the Asian energy market,

*We therefore,*

1. *Call for* the liberation of production and service in the energy sector in Asia, in order to support the international measures for combating climate change, and to move forward in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations for the year 2030;
2. *Encourage* cooperation among Asian countries to achieve the SDG's by establishing a Joint Energy Market, and coordinate between the government and private sectors in a bid to create partnerships that may become means for the promotion of economic prosperity in Asia;
3. *Support* the comprehensive green and blue development for sustainable development, and promote the investment in infrastructure and the use of technology that helps in improving alternative energy resources and reduce climate change;
4. *Call also* for emphasizing the importance of renewable energy and energy efficiency in achieving sustainable development and the protection of environment by the use of environment-friendly substances for future generations;
5. *Welcome* the assistance provided for the least developed Asian countries in the use of alternative energy, and the assistance in the optimal utilization of their natural resources, in order to improve their economy and create a sustainable work environment;
6. *Call on* the parliaments of Asian countries to take into account, when adopting response and recovery policies from the Corona pandemic, as well as when developing legislation and approving budgets for this purpose, to ensure the achievement of a sustainable and comprehensive recovery from the pandemic in which energy transformation is at the heart of its concerns, in order to accelerate the shift towards alternative and renewable energy sources that are environment sensitive;
7. *Urge* member parliaments on the importance of legislation and enactment of laws of renewable energy to activate the role of Asian parliaments in the future of renewable energy.



## Draft Resolution on Environmental Issues

*We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,*

*Recalling* the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the decisions of the United Nations Climate Action Summit in September 2019, the Climate Aspiration Summit in December 2020, and the Climate Adaptation Summit in January 2021; All of which affirmed the determination of the international community to critically address environmental and climate change issues, and broaden the scope of emission reduction targets; Given the threat that climate change poses to human life and stability,

*Recalling* APA Resolution on Environmental Issues, Global Warming, Climate Change, and Planting Billions of Trees Throughout Asia (APA/Res/2015/07) adopted at the 8<sup>th</sup> APA Plenary in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, December 2015, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and other relevant APA resolutions,

*Welcoming* the Report of the Secretary-General on Environmental Issues, Global Warming, and Planting Billions of Trees throughout Asia, contained in document SG/Rep/2016/03-2 dated 20 July 2016,

*Adhering* to the important role of environment in the sustainable development and meeting needs of increasing world population particularly countries of Asia which are facing dire consequences of climate change,

*Recognizing* the need to pursue the sustainable development namely the economic growth, social development and environmental protection in a balanced and mutually supportive manner,

*Highlighting* the link between sustainable development and other relevant ongoing processes such as that the implementation of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Paris agreement UN Convention Biological Diversity (UNCBD), UN Convention to Combat Desertification and the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development among others is linked with global sustainable development agenda,

*Emphasizing* the natural capital such as forests, biodiversity, freshwater, and coastal and marine ecosystems as being essential to making “green economies” a reality; and we shall maintain and protect these capitals from any threats that might harm it or any of its elements,

*Recognizing* that climate change represents an urgent and potentially irreversible threat to human societies and the planet and thus requires the widest possible cooperation by all

countries, and their participation in an effective and appropriate international response, with a view to accelerating the mitigation and adaptation efforts as well as accelerating provision of Means of Implementation including finance mobilization from developed to developing countries (MOI),

*Underlining* the necessity of a comprehensive and long-term strategy to combat drought, forest fire, air pollution, sand and dust storms, desertification land degradation and marine life deterioration, thus improving the living conditions of the people living in arid, semi-arid and coastal areas,

*Recognizing* the significance of exchanging information on environmental issues among Asian countries and transfer of environmentally sound technologies, in particular scientific, capacity building and technical assistance, from those states with high capabilities in the area of sustainable development to less developed countries in Asia,

*Recognizing* the urgent need to enhance the provision of finance, technology and capacity-building support by developed country Parties, in a scaled up, easily accessible, adequate, new, additional and predictable manner, to enable enhanced pre-2023 climate action by developing country Parties,

*Concerned* about the negative environmental impact of unbridled energy consumption on a global scale and particularly in Asia,

*Encouraging* Asian parliaments of the countries which supported the Doha amendment to the Kyoto Protocol to speed up their acceptance of the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, in order to provide further momentum for global climate action for the years leading up to 2023,

*Calling up* on developed countries and international institutions to assist Asian developing countries, in their efforts to deal with negative consequences of environmental degradation effectively and *reiterating* the importance of devising a proper mechanism for technology transfer and financing from developed to developing countries,

*Emphasizing* that substantive involvement of APA in the latest state of affairs as regards the ongoing negotiations within the context of UNFCCC, exchange of views among Member Parliaments and striving for bringing as much coordination and collaboration as possible in relevant negotiating for a view to serving and improving the common regional interest of Asia is a compelling imperative,

*Acknowledging* the role of civil society, NGOs, policy think tanks, business and academia in the protection of environment through their inputs to the environmental policy formulation as well as implementation at the local, national and regional levels,

*Emphasizing* the importance of cooperation among Member Parliaments with regard to efforts to combat drought, desertification, land degradation, sand and dust storms, forest fire, air

pollution, and non-biodegradable marine debris,

*Recognizing* the success by Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) in raising global awareness and international collaboration in the economic and environmental fields and the promotion of transparency,

*Recalling* the role of United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) in strengthening and building national capacity to promote sustainable management of the environment and in the implementation of programs that take into account environmental considerations,

*Agreeing* to uphold and promote regional and international cooperation in order to mobilize stronger and more ambitious action in mitigation and adaptation efforts and the mean of implementation by all Parties and non-Party stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector, financial institutions, cities and other sub-national authorities, local communities and indigenous peoples, as applicable,

*Stressing* that all parties as well as all the stakeholders, including the business sectors have responsibility to preserve and conserve environment and that any ecological and environmental damage should be held responsible, according to the prevailing laws and regulations with respect to the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances,

*Stressing* the central role of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in providing collective international response to the challenges of global climate change,

*Realizing* that although global emissions have decreased by about 6% during the first months of the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, in order to serve the sustainable development goals related to climate change, the economic and industrial downturn resulting from the outbreak of the pandemic is not a substitute for sustainable climate action that enables economies to Growth and job creation, simultaneously addressing climate issues and environmental protection,

*Emphasizing* the role of parliaments in encouraging their governments to develop plans and strategies in terms of developing solutions to environmental issues and supporting sustainable development goals,

*The importance* of encouraging parliaments to call on their governments to agree to all international resolutions established to protect the environment, and to confront thermal emissions and climate changes, according to confirmed international agreements and decisions issued by the United Nations and other international conferences in support the action plan to achieve the goals of sustainable development,

*Emphasizing* the importance of investing in scientific research and studies that would provide solutions to reduce environmental issues, and the importance of investing in modern technology and innovation to reduce environmental issues and support sustainable development goals,



*We therefore,*

1. *Take into* account the adoption of Paris Agreement at the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties of UNFCCC in December 2015;
2. *Urge* the adoption of the Paris Agreement Work Programme (PAWP) at the 24th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC in December 2018 for operationalization of the Paris Agreement, 2015; We also welcome the decisions of the Climate Ambition Summit in December 2020 and the Climate Adaptation Summit in January 2021;
3. *Invite* Members of APA parliaments to be mindful of the right to an ecologically-balanced environment;
4. *Urge* Member Parliaments to modify, or enact, laws according to their respective needs to enforce strict protection of natural habitats and environment, as well as people, threatened by environmental deterioration;
5. *Call* upon all Member Parliaments to promote the efficiency and effectiveness of targeted development programs through coordination efforts, including by UNDP;
6. *Call* upon APA Member countries to take more concrete steps for public awareness concerning environmental protection and facilitating implementation of a global-scale system of interconnected collective and national efforts to mitigate negative anthropogenic impact on climate with a view to achieving sustainable development;
7. *Urge* APA Parliaments to support Sustainable Development Goals more actively with regard to environmental issues by adopting appropriate legislations;
8. *Call on* APA member countries to uphold rule of law on environmental issues and to share good practices on that matter;
9. *Invite* the APA Member Parliaments to proceed with legislation and other legal actions deemed appropriate and instrumental in encouraging the governments to formulate and implement legislations, policies and measures with regard to the following:
  - Integrating climate policies in broader development policies with a view to making implementation and overcoming barriers easier as appropriate;
  - Financing and encouraging R&D for low carbon or cleaner technologies with a view to stimulating technological advances, reduce costs, and enable progress toward stabilization;

- Legalizing the necessity of observing the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) as a step towards bringing a balance between the three pillars of sustainable development namely: economic growth, social development and environmental protection;
  - Encouraging the maximum possible interaction, coordination, integrity and solidarity among Asian delegations involved in climate change negotiations with a view to providing for a collective wisdom by Asia as their common interests which in turn shall strengthen Asian regionalism and contribute to the cause of an Asian integration;
  - Interacting with and make collective attempts with other Asian States Parties for pushing the environmental priorities and urgencies of Asia within the agenda of financial and technological mechanisms of environment related instruments such as Global Environmental Facility(GEF), those operating within UNEP and the established technological and financial mechanisms in Durban in 2011;
10. *Invite* APA Member Parliaments to exchange experiences and best practices on environmental issues and provide, data and information concerning issues related to sustainable development, climate change and other environment related major issues to the Secretariat to be compiled in a database for the reference and use by all Member Parliaments;
  11. *Invite* also APA Member Parliaments who are in a position to do so, to provide means of implementation including finances, technology development and transfer, and capacity building support to APA members in their efforts to combat climate change and drought, desertification, land degradation, sand and dust storms forest fire, and air pollution;
  12. *Call on* APA Member Parliament to urge their respective governments to implement projects and programs in line with their contribution/commitments as mentioned in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs); in line with the Paris Agreement as appropriate; and intensifying qualitative environmental campaigns with the development of preventive and remedial environmental plans;
  13. *Urge* APA Member Parliaments to support the objectives of the Paris Agreement on mitigation, adaptation, finance support, technology transfer and capacity building, early complete the system of law and policy in line with international commitment in response to climate change as appropriate;
  14. *Note* with concern that the estimated aggregate greenhouse gas emission levels in 2025 and 2030 resulting from the nationally determined contributions do not fall within least-cost 2°C scenarios;

15. *Recommend* action be taken by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) within existing framework to assist the Asian region and especially its developing nations on the basis of equity with mitigating the effects of climate change and protecting natural resources in order to ensure a healthy environment for future generations to promote mitigation, as appropriate and adapt to the increasing effects of climate change and the protection of natural resources;
16. *Call* upon APA to expand partnership with countries and partners outside the region, particularly the European Union, to exchange information on climate change, and natural disaster, mobilized financial resources to invest in project related to clean and energy saving technologies, and establish a research center in Asia to provide aid to the developing Asian countries in support for national policy programs with regards to sustainable Information and Communication Technology (ICT);
17. *Recommend* APA Members to deliberate the mechanism for an Asia wide response in times of natural disasters and calamities to provide timely aid and rescue to those in need of help;
18. *Call on* the parliaments of Asian countries to make among the priorities of the response and recovery programs from the Covid-19 pandemic to inject the required investments to accelerate the removal of carbon from Asian economies, the shift to economic patterns that are less harmful to the environment, the expansion of green economy and the recycling economy, renewable and sustainable energy sources, and the application of sustainable climate measures in fulfillment of the Paris Agreement requirements to combat climate change;
19. *Request* APA Member Parliaments who are in a position to do so to offer advice and support to the other members on how to acquire and effectively utilize the tools to combat economic shocks resulting from climate change, such as damage to property and infrastructure, lost productivity, and coping costs through the preparation of sustainable policies pertaining to disaster preparation programs with special attention given to the needs of the rural population; rain water harvesting; green roofs; river embankment strengthening; food silos; early warning systems; and information and communication technology to facilitate information sharing;
20. *Request* the Secretary General to seek views of APA Member Parliaments on the implementation of the present resolution and report there on to the next session of the Standing-Committee in 2021.



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## Draft Resolution on Financial Affairs: Ensuring Efforts for Economic Growth

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*We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,*

*Recalling* APA resolution on Ramification of International Financial Crisis for the Economies of Countries of APA Member Parliaments, APA/Res/2015/13 and other relevant APA resolutions,

*Expressing* concern on repercussions of the sovereign defaults and financial markets volatility to the economic growth in APA countries,

*Also Expressing* concern on the adverse impact of the continuing fragility of the global economy, the slow pace of the restoration of global growth and trade, increasing protectionism ~~and inward-looking policies~~ (India), with increasing systemic risks that threaten financial stability, including in developing countries,

*Noting* that a social order based on justice and egalitarianism is of critical importance to accelerate social and economic progress everywhere, help in achieving international peace and harmony,

*Appreciating* the measures that have already been taken by Asian Parliaments and their governments to contain the negative impacts of economic crisis in their economies, and expect them to take further steps to stimulate their respective economies,

*Noting* that ~~the~~ (India) economic growth in Asian Economies has not been shared equally in the society ~~whereby the Gini Coefficient, as reported by the Asian Development Bank, has grown significantly over the past decades~~ (India) and that regional cooperation ~~which have already existed~~ (India) in Asia could serve as a platform for enhancing cooperation among subregional economic organization that would improve welfare for all in Asia,

*Noting* that peace and stability in the region is an important contributor to economic growth and ~~that occupation~~ (India), violence and political instability act as inhibitors for economic development ~~and that maintaining regional collaboration on political stability is crucial~~ (India),

*Recognizing* also the necessity to effectively reform the current global financial architecture so as to achieve a more balanced world economic and financial order,

*Encouraging* parliaments to adopt policies through enactment of law and legislations, their legislative and scrutiny roles aiming to enhance the small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and

the role of the private sector and increasing its contribution to economic integration, in order to create the appropriate job ~~and jobs~~ (India) opportunities to achieve a comprehensive economic development ~~on human and financial levels~~ (India) in Asia,

*Emphasizing* that the international financial system should bolster sustainable, inclusive and sustained economic growth, sustainable development and job creation, promote financial inclusion and support efforts to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty and hunger, in particular in developing countries, while allowing for the coherent mobilization of all sources of financing for development,

*Noting* that the spread of the Covid-19 epidemic has led to a sharp rise in unemployment rates, decreased production rates, decreased growth rates and international trade movement, and increased debts and deficits in government budgets, which placed additional burdens on governments, and pushed them to take exceptional measures by taking quick measures. to mitigate the social impacts on the sectors and groups most affected, especially informal employment, and medium and small businesses, (Bahrain)

*Also Emphasizing* ~~on~~ (India) the role of the private sector ~~in by~~ (India) influencing national expenditure policies through the roles of parliaments, particularly with regard to discussions and approval of budgets and financial accounts, as well as the adoption of investment laws and the provision of incentives and guarantees for private sector growth,

*We therefore,*

1. *Call upon* APA Member Parliaments ~~Asian governments~~ (India) 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 as necessary means to create decent jobs and reduce inequalities to promote the formation of a regional SME's network;
2. *Urge* APA (India) Member Parliaments to remove ~~all~~ (India) obstacles to socio-economic progress and all forms of discriminations;
3. *Call upon* APA Member (India) Parliaments to ensure by all means, respect for the dignity and value of all human beings and ensure adherence to human rights and social justice by legislative and oversight means, ensuring equality of opportunity for all;
4. *Encourage* APA Member Parliaments to work on an informal debate at APA platform on the potential benefits of social justice in their respective countries and promote greater cooperation for equitable economic development in Asia;
5. *Call upon* APA member parliaments to support the development of Asian-led multilateral bank and its capacity to promote equitable economic growth, ~~improve national and trans boundary connectivity~~ (India) and to ~~seek~~ consider (India)

- possible establishment of a regional stabilization fund in times of economic crisis;
6. *Encourage* APA member governments to create a protocol to enhance resilience to economic crisis which ~~regulates~~ *provide for* (India) the allocation for some budget reserves for economic crisis mitigation;
  7. *Also encourage* APA member governments to promote cross-border private investments while ensuring an institutional capacity and prudent regulatory framework to enable countries to absorb large capital flows, while at the same time using bilateral swap arrangement to promote the role of local currency in financing cross-border trade;
  8. *Urge* APA Member Legislatures to promote social justice and development in their respective policies as a common interest of all nations of Asia by encouraging, promoting and endorsing national and regional efforts and execute developmental plans and strategies to raise the living standards of people;
  9. *Recommend* APA Member Parliaments to promote adoption of Basel III to improve supervision on financial sector governance and to fill any financial gap in case of any monetary crises;
  10. *Encourage* APA Member Parliaments to support implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and focus on policies that alleviate poverty, including improving access to health, education, capital, employment and social protection to help close income inequalities;
  11. *Call on* APA member parliaments to consider reviewing their respective legislations, where appropriate, to give more support to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) by giving access to low interest credit loan and to provide capacity building and regional networking to integrate SMEs into regional and global value chains;
  12. *Encourage* APA Member Parliaments to support financial inclusion for the poor and other vulnerable segments of society in each respective country and to share best practices of financial inclusion in the region;
  13. *Also Encourage* APA Member Parliaments to support the conduct of comprehensive studies, with regional and global coordination regarding weak community groups, in ~~the~~ (India) support of the need for ~~the~~ (India) financial ~~integration~~ *inclusion* (India) of the underprivileged;
  14. *Stress* the importance of investing in human development and activate the concept of partnership among member states and to provide sufficient public funding for education and health for everyone, without discrimination, to face the future global and Asian economic demands;

15. *Stress* the critical importance of a stable, inclusive and enabling global economic environment for the advancement of sustainable development, for the reliable and effective financing of development and for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, mobilizing public and private, as well as domestic and international resources.
16. *Request* the APA Member governments to channel more funds in joint research and development (R&D) activities as a means to spur innovation and viable economic growth strategies to sustain a more resilient economic growth;
17. *Also request* the APA Member governments **who are in a position to do so (TURKEY)** to promote the ~~implementation of low carbon economy despite the global economy deceleration~~ low-carbon economic development, complementing the economic growth and development requirements (India);
18. *Call upon* the APA Member Parliaments to continuously promote the need for reform in global financial institutions and architecture, ~~finance~~ and (India) technology regulation, **with support for access to affordable finance and technology for developing countries (India)** with the view for a balanced world economic and financial order;
19. *Call upon* APA member countries to strive to create an enabling institutional and business environment that can promote financial stability, financial inclusion, and efficient mobilization and utilization of the available resources;
20. *Recommend* establishment of a Technical Working Group so as to study the terminology issues related to green funding, classification of relevant financial instruments, methodology for standardizing such instruments and their subsequent certification;
21. *Call upon* APA member countries to facilitate investing their sovereign funds and encourage their private investors to invest more in Asia and to create an appropriate and attractive environment for Asian investment;
22. *Urge* the parliaments of Asian countries to place digital coverage at the forefront of response and sustainable recovery policies from the Covid-19 pandemic, as it has been an active and influential axis in almost every aspect of an effective response to the pandemic, especially online learning, e-commerce, working from home, and then the digital divide between and within the countries of the continent threatens to impede economic growth and reinforce inequalities, which requires Asian cooperation to bridge the digital divide, and agreement on a new Asian structure for digital cooperation; and the exchange of experiences, techniques and good practices in this regard, as the digital economy is an essential lever for sustainable economic growth in the post-Covid-19 era; (Bahrain)
23. *Strongly express* its concern ~~on~~ **(India)** the use of sanctions or any mechanisms of financial and economic pressure on APA Member States applied for political

purposes;

24. *Request* the Secretary General to seek the views of APA Member Parliaments on the implementation of the present resolution and report there on to the next session of the Standing-Committee in ~~2018~~ 2021 (Bahrain).





## Draft Resolution on Poverty Eradication

*We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,*

*Recalling* APA Resolution on Alleviating Poverty in Asia (APA/Res/2015/08) adopted at the 8th APA Plenary in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, December 2015 and other relevant APA resolutions,

*Underlining* the significance of the role of Parliaments both in advocating and oversight of achievements of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially on Poverty Eradication,

*Welcoming* the High-level Plenary meeting of the U.N. General-Assembly on the Sustainable Development Goals in September 2015 and its outcome; entitled as “Transforming our world: the 2030 agenda for sustainable development”, in particular referring to goal 2 of sustainable development to eradicate hunger, enhance food security and improve nutrition by promoting sustainable agriculture,

*Reaffirming* that each country must take primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and strategies cannot be overemphasized in the poverty eradication; articulating that SDGs are interconnected and the role of economic growth is fundamental to poverty eradication, so much as investing in health and education,

*Welcoming* bilateral, triangular, regional and multilateral cooperation to eradicate poverty, create jobs, address the consequences of international financial crises, promote sustainable development, and advance market-based industrial transformation and economic diversification,

*Underlining* the fact that the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions is an ethical, social, political, environmental and economic imperative of all humankind, and in this regard recognizing that there is a need to better understand and address the multidimensional nature of development and poverty in a multifaceted and integrated approach,

*Emphasizing* that the implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development depends crucially on the transformation of rural areas, where most of the poor and hungry live,

*Recalling* that nearly 80 per cent of the extreme poor live in rural areas and work in agriculture and that devoting resources to the development of rural areas and sustainable agriculture and supporting smallholder farmers, especially women farmers, is key to ending poverty in all its forms and dimensions by, inter alia, improving the welfare of farmers,

*Stressing* at the same time the need for enhanced international cooperation on poverty eradication, and the obligation of developed countries to provide financial, technical and capacity building assistance along with support in the form of trade, investment and technological transfer to developing countries,

*Realizing* fully that the negative repercussions of the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic have led to a sharp rise in unemployment rates, decline in production rates, lower growth rates, increased poverty and low development indicators, and that they have pushed millions of people in various countries of the continent into extreme poverty due to the sharp decline in economic activities, and that their effects have disproportionately affected the most vulnerable groups, especially women and children, people with disabilities, the poorest and other marginalized groups, which imposes concerted efforts by Asian countries to eradicate poverty in all its forms, being the biggest obstacle to achieving the goals sustainable development,

*Noting* that poverty alleviation is important to combat international terrorism, abuse of women & children and drug trafficking, arms smuggling, human trafficking, sea piracy and transnational crimes,

*Acknowledging* that any constraint on the political and economic development of any country would undermine the effort to poverty eradication and hamper the realization of other SDG's,

*Recognizing* that the SDGs balance all the three crucial dimensions of sustainable development, namely the economic, the social and the environmental,

*Reaffirming* that poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and its alleviation and, eventually, its eradication, is an indispensable requirement for sustainable development,

*Supporting* also a publicity campaign to raise awareness in the society about SDG, utilizing the potentials of mass media,

*Emphasizing* that achieving food security requires efforts and coordination at both national and international level,

*Recognizing* the important role of agriculture in meeting needs of increasing world population, underlining that sustainable agriculture practices and rural development are key approaches to increase food security,

*We therefore,*

1. *Urge* APA Member Parliaments to work closely with their governments in the formulation and implementation of the measures which are outlined in the 2030 Agenda for the Sustainable Development;
2. *Determine* to be more ambitious in our efforts to eradicate poverty, reduce

- inequality, ensure food security, access to healthcare and education;
3. *Develop* a developmental strategic vision in cooperation with Member Parliaments and their governments regarding poverty eradication, provided that developed vision shall contain plans with measurable and assessable indicators;
  4. *Urge* APA Member Parliaments to redouble their efforts in supporting activities of poverty eradication and encourage their respective governments to facilitate the implementation of effective policies to promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all;
  5. *Urge* APA Member Parliaments to create awareness among general public about the importance of sustainable food consumption and production and take possible steps to ensure it and harness all parliamentary efforts to enact laws that work for the interest of food security;
  6. *Invite* APA Member Parliaments to adopt necessary legislation to:
    - a) improve labor market regulations;
    - b) support the informal sector and offering increased security to it;
    - c) establish legal savings and loan associations that can help to reduce the reliance on moneylenders;
    - d) promote modern agriculture which contributes essentially to reduction of poverty in urban and rural areas;
    - e) empower the poor to improve their living conditions and participate in decision-making which affects their lives;
    - f) help to upgrade the infrastructure and services in areas where the poor live and work with emphasis on creating better opportunities for the poor especially girls, which will contribute to increased female labor force participation;
    - g) improve disaster preparedness, disaster relief as well as post-disaster economic recovery;
  7. *Stress* the necessity to adopt strategies to improve life quality, offer higher levels of welfare, by developing necessary policies and laws to force establishments to comply with environmental regulations; to support the development of local technology, research and innovation, taking into consideration the obligations highlighted by the 21st Century Agenda, the Global Summit on SDGs, and UN Environment Program;
  8. *Encourage* APA Member Parliaments to support investment in climate resilient

agriculture and to adopt a unified approach to combat hunger by promoting public and private investments, increased access to inputs, lands and technologies;

9. *Invite* APA Member Parliaments to take appropriate legislative measures for poverty alleviation including providing social safety nets to the poor and the vulnerable;
10. *Recommend* APA Member Parliaments to support and strengthen the capacities of government and communities to prepare for and respond to acute hunger arising from disasters through community based on adaptation;
11. *Encourage* APA Member Parliaments to take joint action to organize aid campaigns, on a voluntary basis upon the request of a Member Parliament, for assistance in the context of alleviating poverty including to enhance domestic production of food by participating in agricultural technologies and training programs;
12. *Urge* APA Member States to give significance to development of sustainable agriculture practices while making national policies, to achieve Sustainable Development Goals;
13. *Call* for increased cooperation between developed and developing member countries for improving food security by means of bilateral, regional and multilateral information sharing, especially in an area of sustainable agricultural technology;
14. *Stress* the significance of women participation and contribution in agriculture sector for improving productivity, food security and eliminating poverty;
15. *Stress* the need to enhance and expand access by developing countries to appropriate technologies that are pro-poor and raise productivity and underlines the need for measures to increase investment in agriculture, including modern technologies as well as in natural resources management and capacity-building of the developing countries;
16. *Stress* that the achievement of sustainable development and the eradication of poverty also hinge on the ability and readiness of countries to effectively mobilize domestic resources, attract foreign direct investment, fulfil official development assistance commitments and use official development assistance effectively and facilitate the transfer of technology to developing countries, on mutually agreed terms;
17. *Affirm* the need for the parliaments of Asian countries, in the process of approving and recovering from the policies of responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, to place the fight against poverty at the heart of response and recovery programs and policies, so that they introduce legislative amendments and approve financial allocations that achieve this goal, and to ensure that response recovery programs

are in the interest of the poor, and in an effort to raise their standard of living and to enhance their access to economic resources, basic services, natural resources, appropriate new technology, and financial services, including microfinance;

18. *Request* the Secretary General to request in his turn the Member Parliaments to offer their views regarding the efforts exerted for the implementation of this Resolution, and submit their reports before the next meeting of the Standing Committee 2021.



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## Draft Resolution on “The Role of APA Parliaments in Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals”

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*We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,*

*Acknowledging* the outcome document of the United Nations Summit for the adoption of Post-2015 Development Agenda entitled “*Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,*” adopted in September 2015,

*Referring* to the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Hanoi Declaration on The Sustainable Development Goals: Turning Words into Action, adopted at its 132<sup>nd</sup> Assembly, held in Hanoi, Vietnam, March 2015; and other relevant inter-parliamentary organizations resolutions,

*Reaffirming* its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

*Being convinced* that the SDGs are integrated and indivisible, global in nature and universally applicable, upholding the principle of common but differentiated responsibility, taking into account different national capacities, levels of development, and respecting national policies and priorities,

*Underlining* that strong political will and leadership of the parliaments and governments are essential for the achievement of the SDGs,

*Emphasizing* the need for a solidarity among governments, parliaments and the people to recognize the importance of the development particularly in the areas of health, education, housing, food security, nutrition and environmental sustainability,

*Noting* the significant progress made by countries in strengthening their public-private partnership readiness and institutional capacities through legislation and establishment of public-private partnership units in relevant government departments,

*Welcoming* the establishment of the Sustainable Development Goals Commission in each Asian parliaments as the best practices to pursue the objectives of the SDGs at national level,

*Bearing* in mind that the unprecedented outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, and the disastrous effects it has caused throughout the world, have made achieving the sustainable development goals more difficult, given that the economic, social and humanitarian impacts resulting from the pandemic have eroded the efforts made at the level of the Asian continent to achieve the sustainable development goals, and therefore most Asian governments alone will not be able to reverse that impact, which requires uniting their efforts and mobilizing their resources in order to achieve the sustainable development goals,

*Noting* that, over the course of thirty years, human development rates have been achieving gains year by year at an average global level, but the negative impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the health, education and income levels has changed this continuous trend of gains and has even reversed it in many Asian countries, whereas many countries are witnessing a significant decline in the areas of basic human development, in the largest decline ever recorded,

*We therefore,*

1. *Endorse* the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the outcome document of the UN Summit which adopted the SDGs as the new development frame work for 2015- 2030. The list of the SDGs is annexed;
2. *Urge* APA Member Parliaments to uphold Parliamentary Diplomacy as an instrument to improve the implementation of SDG's in general and APA priorities including environmental protection, poverty eradication, protection of the safety of energy market in Asia, economic growth of APA Member States and preventing of Water crisis in particular;
3. *Invite* APA Members States to review and assess opportunities and legislative gaps to engage the private sector to invest in infrastructure on a sustainable basis;
4. *Call upon* Member Parliaments to develop strategies in support of government efforts regarding SDGs, and how to expand the use of clean and renewable energy such as solar, hydro and wind energy;
5. *Decide* to be actively involved in the integration of SDGs into national development programs and the formulation of national policies to support the mainstreaming and implementation of SDGs;
6. *Invite* APA members to involve all actors in sustainable development consideration to ensure transparency and accountability in the implementation process;
7. *Urge* the Asian Parliaments to contribute to the national efforts towards achieving the SDGs including through the establishment of the appropriate mechanisms to monitor the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda at national level;
8. *Recommend* to Asian Parliaments and Governments to consider establishing an

Asian information center in order to provide independent, scientific and reliable data and analytical information in reference to sustainable development indicators;

9. *Call upon* APA Members to provide adequate budgetary resources and adopt legislations which are relevant to support and monitor the successful implementation of the SDGs;
10. *Resolve* to strengthen the role of national parliaments in promoting of SDGs so that people understand that the SDGs are relevant to their lives;
11. *Request* the Standing Committees of APA to deliberate in a comprehensive manner issues of SDGs which are relevant to the work of their committees;
12. *Recognize* Parliaments role in the private sector, by promoting national expenditure policies, through parliament's regulatory roles, particularly regarding the discussion and adoption of budgets and final accounts, and for the endorsement of investment laws, supply of sufficient incentives and securities for private sector growth;
13. *Stress* the importance to develop data and indicators to setup a proper follow-up mechanism on the implementation of SDGs and the need to strengthen statistical capacities of all countries to support the progress;
14. *Call upon* parliaments to contribute, through its roles, to highlight the priority to the enhancement of sustainable agriculture as food security, will constitute the most insistent problem of future sustainable development objectives;
15. *Urge* Asian governments to engage in bilateral, regional or multilateral partnerships in order to build infrastructures and sustainable development projects, using governmental and sovereign funds;
16. *Circulate and exchange* the experiences, procedures and measures that represent successful models in the field of sustainable development among all members of the association in order to benefit, replicate, build upon and be guided by them;
17. *Call Upon* APA member states to strengthen regional economic cooperation and integration to enhance regional connectivity in supporting the implementation of the SDGs;
18. *Call on* Asian countries to adopt a coordinated and comprehensive multilateral response in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic that puts the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals back on track; Under the leadership, insight, innovation and adequate, coordinated and coherent financing, and cooperation between all governments and stakeholders, and with the participation of the United Nations bodies and other relevant intergovernmental and regional bodies, and relevant civil society institutions, affirming the principle of partnership and joint



Asian ownership;

19. *Request* all APA Member Parliaments to report their achievements in the implementation of the SDGs to the APA Secretariat in order to provide information for further discussion in the next Economic and Sustainable Development Standing Committee upcoming meetings.

## Sustainable Development Goals

- Goal 1 End poverty in all its forms every where
- Goal 2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promotes sustainable agriculture
- Goal 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
- Goal 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- Goal 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- Goal 6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
- Goal 7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
- Goal 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- Goal 9 Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
- Goal 10 Reduce in equality within and among countries
- Goal 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- Goal 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- Goal 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts\*
- Goal 14 Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
- Goal 15 Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
- Goal 16 Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institution sat all levels
- Goal 17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

\*acknowledging that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change



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## Draft Resolution on Water and Sanitation in Asia for All

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*We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,*

*Recognizing* the outcome document of the United Nations Summit for the adoption of Post-2015 Development Agenda entitled “*Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*,” adopted in September 2015,

*Recalling* United Nations’ General Assembly resolution (A/64/292) adopted on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2010, which formally recognized **safe and clean drinking (TURKEY)** water and sanitation as human rights and UN Human Rights Council resolution (A/HRC/RES/18/1) adopted on the 28 September 2011, recognizing that the right to **safe drinking (TURKEY)** water and sanitation are part of the right to an adequate standard of living,

*Welcoming* the SDG goal 6 on ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, including universal and equitable access to **safe and affordable (TURKEY)** drinking water, sustainable water resources management and wastewater treatment, providing a further anchor for sustainability in the **water-governance(TURKEY)** field **of water (TURKEY)**,

*Noting with interest* relevant commitments and initiatives promoting the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation, including the Abuja Declaration, adopted at the first Africa-South America Summit, in 2006, the Delhi Declaration, adopted at the third South Asian Conference on Sanitation, in 2008, the Sharm el-Sheikh Final Document, adopted at the Fifteenth Summit Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, in 2009, and the Colombo Declaration, adopted at the fourth South Asian Conference on Sanitation, in 2011,

*Deeply concerned* that approximately one billion people across Asia could face severe water shortage by 2050,

*Acknowledging* the negative impact of the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic on the achievement of all sustainable development goals, including the sixth goal on ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation services for all, given the global economic recession caused by the pandemic, and the precautionary measures, economic decisions, and restoration it imposed, and re allocation of resources affected by this recession, which had the greatest impact on the programs dedicated to implementing all sustainable development goals, the sixth goal in particular, (Bahrain)

*Stressing upon* the need for Asian Governments to focus in national policies on water and sanitation issues and contribute towards international efforts in resolving these issues,

*Affirming* that water management will lead to a high level of human health and reduce many diseases, especially since there are many local, urban and rural communities that depend on wastewater for agricultural production purposes, which can lead to the spread of infectious diseases, (UAE)

*We encourage* parliaments in the APA to support the conduct of comprehensive studies, in regional and global coordination, to state the causes of water scarcity and the challenges of water scarcity in the world, and to develop solutions to ensure the availability of water to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 2030, (UAE)

*Emphasizing* the role of parliaments in setting a strategic development vision in cooperation with their governments regarding water management provided that developed vision shall contain plans with measurable and assessable indicators, (UAE)

*Referring to* the association of rational water management with the need to address the problem of climate change that threatens drought in many regions of the world; and the need for parliaments to invite their governments to agree to all international resolutions established to protect the environment, and to confront thermal emissions and climate changes, according to confirmed international agreements and decisions issued by the United Nations and other international conferences, (UAE)

*Calling* for a parliamentary conference with the participation of experts specialized in water management and representatives of international and regional organizations to prepare an (International Parliamentary Guide) on the optimal use of water resources and their management, (UAE)

*We therefore,*

1. *Welcome* the inclusion of water and sanitation in Post-2015 Development Agenda and the ~~acceptance~~ **recognition (TURKEY)** of human right to safe drinking water and sanitation by the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council;
2. *Consider* the role of Parliamentarian critical in the implementation of human rights approach to **drinking (TURKEY)** water and sanitation in Asia, including particularly the adoption of legislative measures in the implementation of their human rights obligations;
3. *Reaffirm* that APA Member States have the primary responsibility to ensure the full realization of SDGs including Goal 6, and must take steps, nationally and through international assistance and cooperation, **where appropriate, (TURKEY)** especially economic and technical, to the sanitation by all appropriate means;

4. *Request* Member Parliaments to urge their respective governments to cooperate with their regions to discuss the water scarcity challenge all over Asian countries and to study in depth the causes of the water scarcity and to provide appropriate solutions and strategies to overcome this challenge;
5. *Request* the APA Member States to ensure financing according to the available resources for the provision of affordable **and safe drinking (TURKEY)** water and sanitation, and to develop indicators and data collection mechanisms to monitor progress and to identify shortcomings;
6. *Encourage* integrated water resource planning and management<sup>47</sup>**(TURKEY)** for reducing widespread scarcity and pollution of freshwater resources in many regions and give priority to the fulfillment of basic needs and safeguarding of ecosystems in developing and using water resources;
7. *Urge* APA Parliamentarians to vigorously engage with their governments' executives on building inclusive frameworks between States for reduction of climate change impacts. These climate change impacts have severe consequences in the shape of water scarcity and flooding;
8. *Ask* APA Members to support advance technology transfers from developed countries to the developing countries of Asia and sharing of good practices for efficient allocation of water;
9. *Underline* the important role of the international cooperation provided by the United Nations, international development partners, as well as by donor agencies, in the achievement of the SDGs, and urges development partners to harmonize their strategies with the national initiatives and plans of APA Members related to safe drinking water and sanitation;
10. *Adopt* awareness programs by Member States parliaments to inform their citizens about the problem of water scarcity in order to reduce their wastefulness, prevent pollution or waste, and limit their use to the necessary human needs without any other uses;
11. *Urge* parliaments and members of the APA to ensure that the policies and programs for responding to the Covid-19 pandemic and its sustainable recovery place the implementation of the sustainable development goals at the top of governments' work priorities, especially the sixth goal among these goals, after the outbreak of the pandemic revealed how the availability of water and sanitation services was a

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~~<sup>47</sup>**Integrated water resources management (IWRM)** has been defined by the Global Water Partnership (GWP) as "a process which promotes the coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources, in order to maximize the resultant economic and social welfare in an equitable manner without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems".(TURKEY)~~

major component of the elements of response to it and combating the outbreak of the virus, and therefore the implementation of the sixth goal must be at the heart of response and recovery programs; (Bahrain)

12. *Propose to establish* an open ended group in the context of this Resolution to discuss continuously the different dimensions of Water Crisis in Asia and use the Parliamentary Diplomacy among APA States in this region to properly address the disastrous life of the peoples of this region and protect the safety of the environment;
13. *Request* the Secretary-General to report, the achievement of APA Member Parliaments on this resolution, to the next **meeting of the (TURKEY) Standing Committee on Sustainable Development. (TURKEY)**



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## Draft Resolution on Adopting a Road Map Providing for Measures to Stimulate Green Finance

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*We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,*

*Recalling* the decisions taken by the Working Group on Green Finance (19 April 2019, Naryan-Mar Russia), Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development (26 June 2018, Pissouri, Cyprus), as well as the final results of development and consideration of a Road Map providing for measures to stimulate Green Finance that is prepared in pursuit of implementing the mentioned decisions,

*Recommend*

1. To approve and adopt for implementation a Road Map providing for measures to stimulate Green Finance within the APA member-countries contour,
2. To establish the **Asian Climate Financial Initiative (ACFI)**, an international information and methodology center, in order to build and further the process of information and methodological support for developing the Green Finance system within the APA member-countries contour and to arrange the works on verification, certification and introduction of a combined register of the Green Finance instruments,
3. To establish the APA Supervisory Board to involve organization's members for coordinating and monitoring the **ACFI** activity and strategic development,

*Call on* the APA member-parliaments and governments to contribute to engaging in the joint work within the **Asian Climate Financial Initiative** the national agencies working in the field of Green Finance and central banks, ministries of ecology and other government institutions jointly with professional community empowered with the matters of Green Finance.



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## Draft Resolution on Asian Climate Financial Initiative

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*We, the members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,*

*Supporting* the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including goal 17 on strengthening the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development, adopted by country leaders in September 2015 for a more prosperous future, and through this movement towards prosperity, greater public welfare and the protection of the planet, and in pursuance of the Resolutions of the APA Committee for Sustainable Development and Economy in The Declaration, adopted in Antalya on December 16, 2019, on the approval of a roadmap to provide incentive measures for green finance, the creation of a common Asian energy market, as well as the role of APA parliaments in supporting the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,

*Approving* the Agenda for Sustainable Development for the period till 2030, the outcome document of the UN Summit, where the SDGs accepted new development framework for 2015-2030 and convincing that the SDGs are global in nature and universally applicable, taking into account different national capacities and priorities,

*Noting* the important role of Asia in the recovery of the global economy and its further development in the post-crisis space, as well as the key role of environmental quality in sustainable development and meeting the needs of the growing world population, especially Asian countries,

*Striving* to achieve economic growth and poverty reduction through job creation, social development and environmental protection in a balanced and mutually supportive manner as appropriate,

*Recognizing* the critical problem of climate change and the need for large-scale funding of measures to mitigate the harmful effects of human economic activity on the environment, as well as joint actions to reduce the use of fossil fuels and reduce anthropogenic pressure on the planet's ecosystem, as appropriate including by strengthening adaptation measures,

*Emphasizing* the value of natural capital, the need for a long-term strategy to combat drought, sand and dust storms, forest fires, air pollution, desertification, land degradation and degradation of marine flora and fauna and encouraging increased investment in infrastructure while meeting increased environmental requirements,



*Recognizing* the importance of exchanging information on environmental issues among Asian countries and improving disclosure standards on environmental and climate risks for the development of long-term environmental investment with private capital,

*Emphasizing* the role of parliaments in encouraging their governments to develop plans and strategies to green economy in according to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 2030,

*Announcing* the establishment of the Asian Climate Financial Initiative which brings together the principles, approaches, intentions and actions common to all countries across the Asian Parliamentary Assembly with regard to financing sustainable green growth in Asia,

*We therefore,*

1. *Call on* the efforts of states, businesses and institutional investors to develop and launch financial programs, including finance mobilization from developed to developing countries mechanisms and tools that promote the growth of environmental and climate finance in order to reduce accumulated environmental damage, prevent environmental pollution and reduce anthropogenic impact on human health and the planet's climate;
2. *Support on* an ongoing basis a program of in-depth researches and analysis of the impact of Asian natural assets that absorb and compensate the harmful effects of human economic activities on the environment and climate at the global level;
3. *Recommend* that the compensatory potential of Asian natural capital is taken into account at the global level, as part of measures to limit greenhouse gas emissions and the contribution to reducing the harmful impact on the climate and the environment of the APA countries results of actions, including improving energy efficiency of economies, promoting reforestation, increasing the share of green technologies in the economy and the development of green financial instruments, including transitional formats through providing finance, technology and capacity-building assistance for developing countries;
4. *Encourage* APA Member Parliaments to establish a Supervisory Council composed of the representatives of APA Member-States so as to coordinate and monitor ACFI activities and its strategic development; provided that developed initiatives and plans shall contain plans with measurable and assessable indicators;
5. *Invite to* organize a study of best practices and exchange of experience between countries in the APA outline on the terms of financing sustainable development, development of programs to support and stimulate the issuance and circulation of green financial instruments;

6. *Urge* the development of a taxonomy of sustainable economic activities, including those that ensure the transformation of the economy, formulate general principles and model methods for assessing adaptive or replacing segments of the green economy, provide methodological support for the development of national green financing systems, including issues of standardization of financial instruments and their verification;
7. *Also recommend* the creation of parliamentary commissions for legislative and regulatory support for the development of green finance systems at the national levels, to use and to disseminate effective practices for regulating and stimulating green investments from both institutional investors and individuals;
8. *Call for* the promotion of the development of standards and rules for public disclosure of information by issuers of green bonds and other financial instruments, whose funds are attracted for the purposes of investing in projects and programs of sustainable development, as well as standards for responsible investment by financial market participants, as appropriate;
9. *Encourage* the expansion of partnerships and pursue consistent policy with recognized international centers for standardization and monitoring of information on green and climate finance, to ensure synchronization of approaches and mutual recognition of methodologies and practices;
10. *Recommend* creating an international information and methodological center of the Asian Climate Finance Initiative (ACFI) with the aim of providing information and methodological support for the development of the green finance system within the APA member countries and organizing verification, certification and maintenance of a joint register of green finance instruments;
11. *Also recommend* the governments of APA member states to consider the possibility of creating an information and methodological center of ACFI as a permanent institution for the implementation of this initiative on the basis of an intergovernmental agreement.

## Attachment VIII

### Virtual Meeting of Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development

May 20, 2021

### Report of the Chair of the Working Group on Water Crisis

By MP. Mr. Noori Ghezaljah

First, I would like to greet all of you, dear colleagues in the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) from Tehran, the capital of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and I also thank our esteemed colleagues in the Bahraini Parliament for the proper organization of this meeting. I hope that in this meeting, in order to pursue and solve the problems and issues in the ancient continent of Asia, we will be able to achieve worthy results and achieve the APA goals through consultation and constructive interaction.

Dear colleagues;

As you know, access to safe water is one of the factors contributing to sustainable growth, and the consequences of a water crisis can be a source of conflict and instability at an international level. Thus, resolving disputes and conflicts through cooperation and negotiation on water resources and ways of managing them are an integral part of interactions between nations and their foreign policy. Therefore, it is necessary that governments and parliaments take more steps to prepare and approve laws and mechanisms for the management of water resources, and it is also necessary to focus attention on cross-border treaties based on international law and friendly relations between countries in order to achieve unique and more appropriate solutions with the aim of reducing tensions and conflicts and avoiding new challenges.

According to the statistics provided by the United Nations, more than half of the world's land area is within shared drainage basins of two or more countries. There are more than 260 international rivers in the world that are shared between two or more countries, and approximately 40% of the world's population and 50% of its area are located within these common drainage basins. More than 150 major rivers flow through several countries, and more than half of the world's residential areas benefit from the water of these rivers. Eighty countries share rivers with their neighbors, and exploitation in such basins can be controversial and a potential threat to international peace and security. In the meantime, the signing of more than 300 treaties on resolving conflicts related to water resources shared between different countries across the world and the enforcement of more than two thousand international agreements related to water resources show the sensitivity and importance of the issue of water in the world.

Dear Colleagues, Dear Participants;

In order to address the concerns, diminish the crisis and take operational measures in this regard, the Water Working Group has certain proposals to help reduce the extent and severity of the water crisis with the cooperation of Asian countries.

### **1- The need for targeted awareness raising:**

Lack of deep and correct awareness and understanding of this serious crisis is an important factor that perpetuates the crisis. As long as there is no deep understanding of the value and importance of this vital substance and as long as the trend of water scarcity as a global threat does not receive proper attention, the scope of crises and the resulting tensions will increase and human development will face serious challenges.

Raising awareness of water and the associated problems should receive attention as one of the important goals. Educating citizens and creating various networks of civil communities regarding the principles of water policy, the quantitative and qualitative status of water resources, ways of increasing productivity and water-centered projects – all of these highlight the need for targeted awareness raising. This comprehensive awareness raising should lead the human community to the central understanding that water, as the source of life, is a key factor in social development, prosperity and progress, and a factor that contributes to peace and cooperation in times of crisis.

### **2- Water pricing:**

One of the issues that necessitate serious attention is the issue of water pricing. Unlike oil and gas, water in Asia, like in many other parts of the world, is considered free. Experts recommend using efficient and fair pricing for sustainable water use without reducing the amount of production. Water pricing policy allows farmers to decide whether to use water properly or to waste it. Thus, government subsidies appear to be inefficient and farmers do not have much incentive to use water efficiently. According to the assessments of international institutions in this regard, a change in the water pricing system is necessary and the best solution is to introduce market prices for water. This would encourage more efficient use of water in human activities.

### **3- Virtual water diplomacy:**

Today, as a result of the widening scope of water diplomacy, virtual water diplomacy has been offered as another solution to this crisis, which is of course associated with numerous complexities, and in order to succeed in it, there must be trust between nations and countries must have a stable system of governance. The important point in this regard is to have comprehensive spatial planning. Comprehensive management of water resources requires reliance on countries' water resources and completion of practical groundwork for water and sewage reuse, so much so that in 2017, the United Nations paid serious attention to wastewater as an untapped resource.

Dear colleagues,

Hydrologists and even politicians around the world are confident that how we use the world's water resources and shared freshwater – which are limited and vulnerable and yet the main factor in sustaining life, development and the environment – can be the difference between war and peace in the present era. For this reason, it is believed that water will play the same role that oil plays in current conditions; that is to say, water is a scarce, precious and exhaustible substance, but unlike oil, exhaustion of water resources will spell the end of human life on Earth.

It must be acknowledged that given the existing circumstances, there will be a water conflict, such that sooner or later dominance over water resources will become a mainstream issue in designing roadmaps. However, it seems that there is still no strong political will in the region and the world to solve the problem of water shortage, and in contrast to the bombastic words of the international community, not enough attention is paid to this issue. In the meantime, what seems important is to pay attention to the fact that everyone needs fresh and clean water. But its shortage in third world countries means that human lives are in danger, with Asia and the Middle East being one of the critical regions of the world.

Finally, I hope we can use the capacity of parliamentary diplomacy to deepen relations and constructive interactions between the parliaments of Asian countries. In the meantime, I hope that the activities of the Water Working Group in collaboration with these countries can diminish the common concerns and promote the shared goals in the area of water crisis and hopefully, with the convergence and synergy between countries, the outcome of the actions by this Working Group will lead to efficient and effective results.

Thank you very much