



APA Coordinating Meeting on the sideline of the 143rd IPU Assembly

Saturday, 26 November 2021, Hour 16:00 – 17:30
Hall Roma, 2nd Floor, Palacio Municipal (IFEMA)
Minutes of Proceedings

Final Report

1. Introduction

The Coordination Meeting of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly was held on Saturday, 26th November 2021 at 16:00 hours at Hall Roma, 2nd Floor, Palacio Municipal (IFEMA) on the sideline of the 143rd IPU Assembly

The meeting was chaired by the Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (GNAT), Hon. *Prof. Mustafa Sentop* in his capacity as President of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly.

Parliamentary delegations from Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Cambodia, India, Kuwait, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Yemen, and Secretary General of Arab IPU were present during the meeting.

The APA Secretary General, Dr. Mohamamd Reza Majidi called the meeting to order and invited the participants for adoption of the Agenda:

The Agenda of the APA Coordination Meeting was read by the APA Secretary General and unanimously adopted by the participants. The items of the agenda included as follows:

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Opening Remarks by H.E Prof. Mustafa Şentop, President of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,
3. Report by H.E .Dr. Mohammad Reza MAJIDI, APA Secretary General on the activities of the APA Secretariat since the last Coordinating Meeting in Belgrade, Serbia,
4. Consideration of emergency items,

5. Any other matters

Then, the Secretary General invited the Chair, H.E Mustafa Senop to present his opening remarks:

2. Opening Remarks by Prof. Mustafa Sentop,

The Speaker of GNAT, in his capacity as the APA President, opened the meeting by thanking the participants for their presence at this important meeting.

In his address, Prof. Sentop touched on the current international challenges, including the disastrous calamities facing human society across the world in the aftermath of COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on global economy.

He also stated that we should keep up with the changes taking place in the world and evaluate new opportunities for the benefit of our countries as the most important elements of our representation responsibility and APA has provided a great opportunity in this respect.

In another part of his statement he said” Considering the transformations experienced at global level today; APA certainly will play an important role in keeping the dialogue channels open in the Asian Continent and in further strengthening these channels.

He finally referred to the upcoming sessions of the Executive Council and Plenary Meeting to be hosted by Turkey in January 2022 and thanked the Parliaments of Bahrain, Iran and United Arab Emirates for expressing their candidacy for the position as vice-presidents and chairmanship of the related Standing Committees for the year 2022-2023.

He finally called on the APA Secretary General to present a brief summary of the activities of the APA Secretariat during the mentioned period. ([Attachment I](#))

3. Report of the Secretary General:

Following the opening remarks by the Meeting Chairperson, the APA Secretary General started his report with a short welcome note to the participants and appreciated all the IPU delegates of the APA member parliaments who responded to the invitation of the Secretariat and participated at this event. He also thanked the APA President, His Excellency Professor Mustafa Şentop, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, who honored the participants with his presence and address at this important session.

The APA Secretary General, then, listed various activities of the Secretariat since the past coordinating meeting held in Belgrade, Serbia in two parts as follows:

- a) **Pre-pandemic programs**
- b) **Programs during the virus crisis**

a) **Pre-Pandemic Activities of the APA:**

During the past six months since the previous Coordinating Meeting on the sideline of the 141st IPU Assembly in Belgrade, APA Secretariat has been able to actively contribute to the successful organization of the following events at generous invitation of the host member parliaments:

- **The First** Executive Council meeting from 25-28 Oct. 2019 in Rize, Republic of Turkey,
- **Establishment** of the Working Group on Statutory Documents(Proposal of Russian Federation)
 - This Working Group was proposed to examine and revisit the APA working documents under the chair of Kuwait and with membership of Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Russia, Cambodia, Bahrain and Palestine.
 - This meeting was cancelled and postponed to a later date due to the outbreak of corona virus disease.
- **12th Plenary Meeting:** The 12th Plenary Meeting was held from 13-18 December 2019 in Antalya with participation of 21 delegations.
This was the last in-person meeting before the outbreak of the corona Virus crisis late 2019.

b) **APA activities in the face of COVID-19 Pandemic:**

- APA President's appeals for collective measures to fight current global pandemic through a letter addressed to all member parliaments.
- **APA Secretariat innovative policies to hold the APA Meeting remotely:**
APA Secretariat spared no efforts to continue its work after a short hiatus and through contacts with member parliaments, particularly with the Head of Turkish Group, Ms. Asuman Erdogan, to hold virtual meetings. This efforts resulted positively and the first virtual meeting on COVID-19 was hosted by Turkey in Ankara on July 09, 2020.
- **Consideration and adoption of the Decision on" Special Rules of Procedure to Regulate the Conduct of APA Virtual Sessions:**

Under this item, a regulatory framework was adopted by the 1st Bureau Meeting hosted physically by Turkey to plan holding the APA events in virtual format.

As a result, the virtual meetings were hosted by member parliaments as follows:

- Virtual Meeting on Women and Family based Economy(Tehran- March 09,2021)
 - Virtual Meeting of the APA President & Vice-Presidents on APA Future Activities,(Istanbul- Turkey) April 06, 2021,
 - Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development- Manama (Bahrain) May 20,2021,
 - Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs- Tehran(Iran) July 14, 2021
 - Standing Committee on Budget and Planning-Moscow (Russian Federation) August. 04, 2021
- **APA Second Bureau Meeting:** The 2nd Bureau Meeting which was hosted in person by Turkey from 11-14 October 2021 discussed several important issues, including model of payment, future APA activities, date and venue of future meetings.
- **APA Working Group on Statutory Documents:** Following cancellation of the Working Group session in Kuwait due to outbreak of the Corona Virus, the Working Group on Statutory Documents held its first session on Oct. 12-13 in Turkey to amend the APA Working Documents. ([Attachment II](#))

4. Consideration of Emergency Items

The meeting thoroughly examined the Emergency Items submitted by various IPU Groups. The Chair reminded the delegates that only one emergency item could be considered by each General Assembly and gave the floor to the delegates wishing to share their views. The emergency items before this session included four items as follows:

- 1. Indonesia:** Global parliamentary support for the humanitarian situation of the Palestinians,
- 2. Germany, Latvia, the Netherlands and Poland:** Stopping human trafficking, halting human rights abuses and working towards free and fair election in Belarus,

3. Mexico: Impetus to regional development of countries with high levels of international migration,

4. Russian Federation: The vital necessity of ensuring uninterrupted parliamentary activities during pandemics.

In addition to the above four items which were submitted to the IPU Secretariat within the statutory deadline, IPU Group of Turkey also raised an item entitled: *Join approach by parliaments to combat fake news, hate speech, disinformation, and their negative impacts on freedoms/ laws caused by the commercial strategies of multi-national social media corporations that do not recognize national legislations.*

As sponsors of the items 1 and 4 were absent, no decisions could be made on their submitted proposals. Nevertheless delegates present at the meeting expressed their positions.

5. Items 5 of the Agenda on “ Other Matters”:

As regards this item, participants expressed their perspectives on the related issues of their interest. Delegate from Pakistan shared his idea about APA activities and reflected his points of view as follows:

- Words of appreciation to the APA President and Secretary General for their effective management of the affairs and holding the APA meetings on timely basis,
- Distressful and tragic impacts of COVID-19 in every sphere of life at international level leading to unexpected devastating economic disparities,
- APA efficient work schedule in exchanging views among members in respect of the emerging issues facing humanity,
- The need to expedite efforts for reforming APA to address future challenges
- The need for collective wisdom to address emerging issues like inequality, poverty, health , education and climate change, water scarcity and trade,
- The need to strengthen APA to formulate and provide guidelines for durable peace and prosperity across Asia ,
- Appreciation for a timely initiative in respect of establishment of Working Group on Statutory Documents and the need for taking action in respect of the working group on Asian Parliament.
- The two working groups should be supported in terms of financial and human resources.

- The need for creating a viable and independent financial framework for APA in order to make it a potent organization,
- The need to have a rotating procedure concerning important positions of the APA Secretariat as well as the staff members.

After conclusion of the APA official business, the APA Coordination Meeting ended with a thankful statement on the part of the APA President.

6. Other activities of the APA Secretary General

- APA Secretary General held fruitful talks with Mr. Serwan Ismail, Secretary General of the Iraqi Council on the position of Iraq in respect of its active participation at APA events following parliamentary elections for the new term of the parliament.

7. APA Secretary General's Address at the 143rd Assembly :

APA Secretary General, Dr. Majidi listed among speakers of General Debate in the category of international observers at the 143rd IPU Assembly delivered a speech on general debate in the Assembly Meeting. In his address which was focused on”

“Contemporary Challenges to Democracy: Overcoming division and building community”

APA Secretary General began his statement with sincere words of thanks and stated that the theme of general debate is a multifaceted issue which calls to be addressed in an all-inclusive manner.

He said since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the role of government in public health has come to the forefront of the national convention, adding that sound public health policy will be as respectful as possible of civil liberties.

He concluded by saying a lesson is to be learned from this virus crisis, the crisis that should be perceived as a wakeup call for all the stakeholders, particularly governments and parliaments to sit together at the same table and agree on same protocols in order to reach a common point of view.

Attachment I

Saygıdeğer Parlamento Başkanları,

Hürmetli Parlamenterler,

Değerli Konuklar, Sayın Hanımefendiler, Beyefendiler,

- *Asya Parlamenter Asamblesi Dönem Başkanı olarak PAB 143'üncü Genel Kurulu çerçevesinde düzenlenen koordinasyon toplantımıza başkanlık etmekten ve siz değerli parlamenterlerle bir araya gelmekten büyük mutluluk duyuyorum.*
- *Hem PAB marjında yapmakta olduğumuz ikili ve çok taraflı temasların, hem APA olarak gerçekleştirdiğimiz bu toplantımızın ülkelerimizin barış, huzur, refah ve esenliğine katkıda bulunmasını temenni ediyorum.*
- *Hepimizin malumu olduğu üzere, küresel düzeyde önemli sınamalarla karşı karşıya olduğumuz bir dönemden geçiyoruz. Tüm dünyayı her alanda derinden etkileyen bir felaket olan Kovid-19 salgınının yaralarını artık ivedilikle sarmamız gerekiyor.*
- *Açlık ve yoksulluk her zaman olduğu gibi maalesef halen küresel gündemin en üst sıralarında yer alıyor.*
- *Artan yasadışı göç ve insan kaçakçılığının neden olduğu trajediler hepimizin yüreğini kanatmaya devam ediyor.*
- *Aşırıcilık ve terör, masum insanların canına kast ediyor, halklarımızın yararına kullanacağımız kaynakları tüketiyor. İklim sorunları sadece bizleri tehdit etmekle kalmıyor, çocuklarımızın geleceğini ipotek altına alıyor.*
- *Yüzyılların birikimi sonucunda ortaya çıkan bu olumsuz görüntüde radikal bir iyileşmeyi kısa dönemde sağlamamız elbette mümkün olmayacaktır. Ancak, bu sorunların çözümü için olmazsa olmaz temel hususun birlikte hareket etmek olduğunu görmemiz büyük önem taşıyor.*
- *Modern diplomasinin en önemli bileşenlerden biri haline gelen parlamenter diplomasinin sunduğu imkânları kullanmamız, bilgi ve tecrübemizi paylaşmamız, gücümüzü ortak menfaat sağlayacak adımlar için harcamamız, karşı karşıya kaldığımız küresel sorunların ortak bir zeminde ve kalıcı bir şekilde çözüme kavuşturulmasında en değerli katkıyı teşkil edecektir.*

- *Dünyadaki değişimlere ayak uydurulması ve yeni fırsatların ülkelerimizin yararına olacak şekilde değerlendirilmesinin temsil sorumluluğumuzun en önemli unsurları olduğu dikkate alındığında, APA'nın sağladığı büyük fayda net bir şekilde görülmektedir.*
- *Üyelerimizin ortak bir anlayışla hareket ederek APA'yı sahiplenmeleri ve APA'nın faaliyetlerine katkıda bulunmaları bizlere büyük mutluluk vermektedir.*
- *Bunu son olarak 11-14 Ekim 2021 tarihlerinde Nevşehir'de düzenlediğimiz APA Başkanlık Divanı ve Temel Dökümanlar Çalışma Grubu toplantısında müşahede ettik. Bu toplantıda sağlanan ilerlemelerin hepimiz için hayırlı ve uğurlu olmasını temenni ediyorum.*
- *Günümüzde küresel düzeyde yaşanan dönüşümleri göz önünde bulundurduğumuzda; APA'nın Asya kıtasında diyalog kanallarının açık tutulmasında ve bu kanalların daha da güçlendirilmesinde önemli bir rol oynayacağı muhakkaktır.*
- *Bununla birlikte, APA'nın parlamenter diplomaside hak ettiği konumu elde etmesi ve çok daha güçlü ve etkin bir yapıya kavuşturulması için üyelerimizin Çalışma Grubu toplantılarına daha fazla teveccüh göstermeleri ve ilgili hukuki belgelerin yeniden düzenlenmesi sürecine aktif bir şekilde katılmaları önem arz etmektedir.*
- *Nevşehir'deki toplantıda Daimi Komite Başkanlıkları için adaylıklarını açıklayan Parlamentolara başarılar diliyorum.*
- *Bu vesileyle, Ekonomik ve Sürdürülebilir Daimi Komitesi Başkanlığı adaylığı için Bahreyn; Bütçe ve Plan Daimi Komitesi Başkanlığı adaylığı için İran ve Sosyal ve Kültürel İşler Daimi Komitesi Başkanlığı adaylığı için Birleşik Arap Emirlikleri'ne muvaffakiyetler dilerim.*
- *Öte yandan, ödeme modeli konusundaki görüşmelerin bir sonraki APA Yürütme Komitesi toplantısında tüm üyelerin beklentilerini karşılayacak şekilde neticelenmesinin, faaliyetlerimizin planlanması ve icrası bakımından büyük önem taşıdığı yönündeki düşüncemi de bu vesileyle dikkatinize sunmakta yarar görüyorum.*

Değerli parlamenterler,

- *Dünyada, siyasi ve ekonomik dengelerde önemli değişimler yaşanıyor. Asya'nın yeniden yükselişine, küresel ağırlık merkezinin Asya'ya kaymasına tanık oluyor; bundan memnuniyet duyuyoruz.*
- *Türkiye, Asya'yla tarihi, kültürel, sosyal ve ekonomik bağları nedeniyle bu önemli*

değişimin izleyicisi değil, asli bir unsuru olmaya büyük önem vermektedir.

- *Bildiğiniz gibi, bu anlayış doğrultusunda 2019 yılında Sayın Cumhurbaşkanımızın himayesinde “Yeniden Asya Girişimi”ni açıkladık.*
- *Asya ülkelerinin halkları ile aramızdaki ilişkileri her alanda geliştirmeyi, derinleştirmeyi öncelik olarak görüyoruz. Öte yandan, Asya ülkeleriyle karşılıklı yarar temelinde kuracağımız ortaklıklarla bölgesel ve çok taraflı Asya platformlarındaki aktif yaklaşımımızın, girişimci ve insani dış politika hedeflerimizin ileriye götürülmesine katkıda bulunacağına yürekten inanıyoruz.*
- *Bu anlayış doğrultusunda, Asya coğrafyasında ağırlığı giderek artan bölgesel kuruluş ve forumlara da daha dinamik şekilde iştirak ediyoruz. APA Dönem Başkanlığını ikinci kez deruhte ettik.*
- *2019-2021 yılları arasında üstlendiğimiz Asya İşbirliği Diyalogu Dönem Başkanlığını 17 Kasım 2021 tarihinde Ankara’da gerçekleştirilen Dışişleri Bakanları toplantısında Bahreyn’e devrettik.*
- *Sorumluluk duygusuyla yürüttüğümüz D8 ve EİT Dönem Başkanlıklarımızı Bangladeş ve Türkmenistan’a devretmenin mutluluğunu yaşadık. İslam İşbirliği Teşkilatı Zirve Dönem Başkanlığını üstlendik.*
- *Aktif dış politika yaklaşımımızı EİT ve CİCA gibi platformlarda da sürdürüyoruz. Dünyanın en büyük beş diplomatik ağından birine sahip olan ülkemiz, 2003 yılından bu yana beşi Büyükelçilik, on ikisi Başkonsolosluk olmak üzere toplam on yedi yeni misyonu Asya’da açarak Yeniden Asya Girişimimiz kapsamındaki coğrafyada otuz Büyükelçiliğe sahip oldu.*
- *Tüm bu adımlar birlikte değerlendirildiğinde, Asya’ya yönelik kapsamlı yaklaşımımızın, girişimci ve insani dış politikamızın önemli sac ayaklarından birini teşkil ettiği bariz bir şekilde görülüyor.*
- *Dünyanın bugünkü dengelerinde hiçbir ülkenin yaşanan gelişmelere kayıtsız kalma gibi bir lüksü bulunmuyor. Asya açısından bakıldığında bilhassa Afganistan’daki durum hem insani gereklilikler hem güvenlik perspektifinden yakından takip etmemizi gerektiren bir önem taşıyor.*
- *Afganistan’da derinleşen insani kriz ve ekonomik çöküş yaygın bir açlık riskini*

beraberinde getiriyor.

- *Özellikle UNICEF'in işaret ettiği gibi 1 milyona yakın çocuğun yetersiz beslenme nedeniyle hayatını kaybetmesi olasılığı uluslararası toplumun derhal harekete geçmesi için bir alarm niteliğindedir.*
- *Hâlihazırda, Türk Kızılayı ve çeşitli sivil toplum örgütleri Afganistan'daki açlık sorunuyla mücadele için gıda tedarikinde bulunmaktadır.*
- *Ancak kış aylarının yaklaşması ile bu insani trajedinin daha kötüleşeceğini dikkate alarak, uluslararası toplumun konuyu acilen ele almasının ve Afganistan'a ekonomik ve insani yardımın arttırılarak düzenli ve koordineli bir şekilde sürdürülmesinin hayati olduğunu ifade etmek isterim. Afgan halkının beklentilerini karşılayan kapsayıcı bir yönetimin kurulması; insani krizin bertaraf edilmesi, sosyal uyumun ve siyasi istikrarın sağlanması için önem arz etmektedir.*

Değerli Parlamenterler,

- *İnsan odaklı dış politikamız Rohingya Müslümanlarının karşı karşıya bulunduğu ayrımcılık ve zorla yerinden edilmeler gibi vahim insani kriz durumlarına kayıtsız kalmamamızı gerektiriyor.*
- *Rohingya mültecilerinin anavatanlarına güvenli, gönüllü, onurlu ve kalıcı şekilde geri dönüşlerinin sağlanması için uluslararası toplumun daha fazla çaba göstermesi gerektiğini her vesileyle vurguluyoruz.*
- *Öte yandan, Bangladeş ve Myanmar'daki kamplarda zor koşullar altında yaşayan Rohingyaların acılarının dindirilmesi için ilk günden bu yana insani yardım faaliyetlerimizi sürdürüyoruz.*
- *2012'den bu yana Rohingyalara yönelik projeler için yaklaşık 70 milyon Dolar harcadık. Myanmar'da Şubat ayında gerçekleşen askeri darbe ile birlikte sivillere yönelik şiddet daha da artmaya başladı ve ülkede mevcut durumun daha da kötüleşmesine neden oldu.*
- *Myanmar'da en kısa sürede demokrasiye dönülmesine, bütün toplulukların barış içinde bir arada yaşayabileceği kapsayıcı bir ortamın yaratılmasına ve Rohingyaların durumunun iyileştirilmesine yönelik çabalarımızı uluslararası toplumla iş birliği içinde sürdüreceğiz.*

- *Ortadođu'dan Afrika'ya uzanan geniş bir cođrafyada yaşanan krizlerin sona erdirilmesi, barışın ve istikrarın tesisi, insan onuruna yakışır bir yaşam standardının sağlanması için APA ülkeleri olarak birlikte hareket etmemiz gerektiğinin elzem olduğunu bir kez daha ifade etmek istiyorum.*
- *Bugün aramızdaki işbirliği ve dayanışmayı artırmamız her zamankinden çok daha önemli bir hale gelmiştir.*
- *Bu noktada hem kendi cođrafyamızda hem dünyanın ihtiyaç duyulan diğer bölgelerinde güvenlik, barış ve istikrarın sağlanması için üzerimizde tarihi bir sorumluluk bulunduđunu vurgulamak istiyorum.*
- *Türkiye uluslararası meselelerin başta Birleşmiş Milletler olmak üzere, çok taraflı kurumsal mekanizmaların gündeminde yer alması için verdiği büyük çabayı sürdürmeye devam edecektir.*
- *Bütün katılımcılara teşekkür eder, hepinizi en kalbi duygularıyla selamlıyorum.*

Attachment II



**Report of His Excellency
Dr. Mohammad Reza Majidi
Secretary General of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA)
To
The APA Coordinating Meeting
On the Sideline of the 143rd IPU Assembly
Friday-November 26, 2021
Madrid (Spain)**

Asian Parliamentary Assembly
November 2021

In the Name of God

**Report by His Excellency Dr. Mohammad Reza Majidi,
Secretary General of Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA)
To
APA Coordinating Meeting on the Sideline of 143rd IPU Assembly
Friday -November 26, 2021
Spain-Madrid**

**Mr. President,
Distinguished Parliamentarians,**

At the outset and before I begin my report, allow me to express my deep pleasure to warmly welcome you all for accepting invitation of the APA Secretariat to participate at this meeting following cancellation of our last usual meeting in Geneva due to outbreak of global COVID-19 pandemic.

I am also pleased to sincerely offer my gratitude to His Excellency Professor Mustafa Şentop, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, and APA President who has honored us with his presence and address at this important event.

Following the impressive remarks by H.E Prof. Şentop, I avail myself of this great opportunity to draw your keen attention to a report on the activities of the APA Secretariat as part of its assigned duties, since our last meeting in Belgrade, Serbia.

This Report consists of two parts:

- 1. Pre-pandemic programs since our meeting in Belgrade,**
- 2. Programs during the virus crisis**

Since our last Coordinating Meeting on the sideline of the 141st IPU Assembly in Belgrade, and the ensuing global pandemic which to some extent has persisted to date, the APA Secretariat has steadily tried to move forward concurrent with the new emerging situation and continue its works virtually in close cooperation with and under the able management of its President, Professor, Mustafa Sentop.

Summary of the APA Activity Report since Belgrade Meeting:

a) First Executive Council Meeting,

The First Executive Council Meeting of Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) was held from 25-28 October 2019 in Rize, Republic of Turkey and chaired by Ms. Asuman Erdogan, Head of the APA Turkish Group.

❖ Approvals of the Meeting:

1. Affiliation of the parliaments of Qatar and Timor-Leste as full members.
2. Election of Bureau Members as follows:
3. **APA Presidency for 2020-21: Turkey accepted to take the APA Presidency for years 2020-21**
4. **Cooperation with Other Organizations**

This Agenda item regarding membership of the APA in the Group of Friends of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UN AOC) was adopted. The Secretariat was requested to follow up the procedure for membership .

5. Establishment of the Working Group on Statutory Documents (proposal of Russian Federation),

Based on a proposal by the delegation of Russian Federation made as per a letter to the APA President, the meeting discussed the necessity for establishment of a working group to amend and revise the APA Statutory Documents and agreed with the convening of such a working group with the following composition:

- Kuwait as Chairman welcomed to host the first meeting of the working group in January 2020
- **Members:** Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Russia, Cambodia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Palestine

b) 12th Plenary Meeting:

The 12th Plenary was held from 13-18 December 2019 in Antalya with participation of Delegations from 21 member Parliaments together with Majlis Shhura of Oman on Observer status and IPU, AIPU, PUIC and PABSEC , as observer organizations participated at this meeting.

Approvals of the Meeting:

1. Adoption of the request for affiliation by Shura Council of Qatar and National Parliament of Timor Leste as full member:
2. **Meetings of the Standing Committees:** The following four Standing Committees held their related meetings on 15-16 December 2019 in Ankara, Republic of Turkey alongside of the 12th Plenary:
 - Social and Cultural Affairs,
 - Economic and Sustainable Development,
 - Political Affairs
 - Budget and Planning
3. **Antalya Declaration :**

The Drafting Committee on Antalya Declaration met and adopted the Final Declaration on the sideline of the Plenary Session.
4. APA Presidency by Turkey for the year 2020-2021 and Chair of the Standing Committees as APA Vice Presidents for 2020 were also confirmed as follows:
 1. Bahrain for Economic and Sustainable Development
 2. Iran for Social and Cultural Affairs
 2. Iraq for Political Affairs

3. Russian Federation for Budget and Planning

5. Unfortunately, this was the last in-person meeting before the outbreak of the Corona Virus crisis late 2019.

Following the outbreak of COVID-19 virus crisis which faced the entire globe with imposition of tough health restrictions, APA, like that of every other regional and international organization could not continue its regular programs. The Secretariat, after a short recess, break the deadlock and resumed its works, though much slowly under such extremely distressful circumstances by devising certain new policies. Consultations with the President and a couple of members led to the following results:

B) APA activities in the face of COVID-19 Pandemic:

1) APA President appeals for collective measures to fight current global pandemic

In a follow-up measures as recommended by the APA Secretary General, it was decided that APA keep its contact with all member parliaments during this tough situation. Therefore APA Secretary General ask H.E. Mr. Sentop, the APA President to address all the APA member parliament parliaments in this respect.

In a letter addressed to all the speakers of the APA Member Parliaments, Professor Mustafa ŞENTOP, called on all the concerned Parliaments, Governments and NGOs to encourage concerted efforts in the fight against current alarming viral outbreak.

He also expressed his sincere solidarity with the people and countries around the globe, especially with his fellow Asian nations, who intensely engaged in the fight against Covid-19 pandemic.

Prof. Dr. Mustafa ŞENTOP also called on the whole world to display its solidarity, coherence and dedication in every aspect for boosting bilateral and multinational cooperation in the current critical international situation in order to save humanity from this threat

2. In another development, APA Secretariat called on member parliaments to share their experiences in the face of COVID-19 pandemic. In response to this request, several member parliaments provided a good records of their activities from parliamentary aspects in the face of burgeoning panic of the global pandemic.

APA Secretariat innovative policies to hold the APA Meetings remotely included:

1. Steady contacts with the member parliaments to figure out the best practices, which can serve our purpose in the face of the unfolding situation.
2. Consultations with Mrs. Erdogan to discuss the new condition facing us and policies to be pursued concurrently to exchange views on APA future activities which result in a common understating to hold meetings virtually.
3. Support of several member parliaments, including APA Heads of Kuwait, Turkey and Azerbaijan to hold meeting through videoconferencing.
4. Video Conference meeting with Heads of Parliamentary Groups of Turkey and Kuwait and emphasis to continue our programs in virtual format.(10 June 2021)
5. Welcome support of GNAT to host the first such meeting on (July 09,2019) as a result of the efforts of APA Secretariat.

APA Secretary General's Positions concerning necessity to hold the virtual meeting:

1. To share experiences in the fight against COVID-19 Pandemic and the degree of success of each member parliament to suppress spread of this dreadful virus as well as actions taken to bring back the economic activities to a normal condition.
2. To share participants' views on the modality for conducting APA future meetings on virtual basis as long as the COVID19 holds its tight grip on our Continent and other parts of the world.

As regard item 2, the Secretary General recommended holding the APA Bureau session to take decision in this respect.

Consideration and Adoption of the Decision on "Special Rules of Procedure to Regulate the Conduct of APA Virtual Sessions:

The First Bureau session was held on Dec.14-16, 2020 in Anakara, Turkey under the auspices of the APA President represented by his Representative, H.E. Ms. Ausuman Erdogan, Head of the APA Turkish Group.

This in-person Bureau Meeting which was held on recommendation of the APA Secretary General discussed the agenda items before it. Several important issues in order to be able to continue APA activities until return to normal situation, including holding the meetings in virtual format was approved.

The Chairpersons of four Standing Committees (Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, and Russian Federation) declared the ultimate time convenient to them to hold the related meetings under their presidency and so was decided. Iraq, Chairperson of the Political Affairs withdrew to hold the meeting due the political situation in that country and parliamentary elections.

- As regards the withdrawal of the Parliament of Kuwait to host meeting of the Working Group on APA Statutory Documents, due to outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, Ms. Erdogan underlined the importance of this meeting and called on the APA Secretariat to communicate with the members of the mentioned Working Group in order to encourage them to share their parts for hosting the meeting of this Working Group.

Note: This meeting was to be hosted by the Parliament of Kuwait in January 2020, but postponed to a later date due outbreak virus crisis.

Following this Bureau session, the Standing Committees each held their meeting as planned in virtual format. Each Standing Committee considered draft resolutions before it and made necessary amendments. Iraq, Chairperson of the Political Affairs withdrew to hold the meeting due the political situation in that country and parliamentary elections.

At this meeting H.E. Ms. Eurdgon, Head of the APA Turkish Group declared that Turkish Parliament would hold the 2nd Bureau Meeting along with the First Working Group on Statutory Documents It was also decided that the 2nd Bureau meeting in Turkey.

The APA Second Bureau Meeting:

At the invitation of the Parliament of Turkey 2nd Bureau Meeting was held at Ürgüp-NEVSEHIR, Turkey 11-14 October 2021. At this meeting several important issues , more

particularly model of payment , future APA activities, date and venue of next meetings, future APA presidents and vice- Presidents, procedure work consideration of Statutory Documents by the Working were duly deliberated and further consideration of certain concerned issues were referred to the upcoming Executive Council

The APA Working Group on Statutory Documents:

The First Session of the Working Group on Statutory Document of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) was held on October 12-13, 2021 in Ürgüp-NEVSEHIR, Turkey. This Meeting which was chaired by H.E.Ms. Erdogan, Chairperson of the Meeting, parts of the amendments proposed by member parliaments was considered and adopted.

The 2nd meeting of the Working Group is due to be held alongside the upcoming Executive Council in Turkey.