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## **APA Coordinating Meeting on the sideline of the 144<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly**

Sunday, 20 March 2022, Hour 10:30 – 12:00

Jakarta Room A& B

Nusa Dua – Bali (Indonesia)

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## **Final Report**

At the invitation of the APA Secretariat, the Coordination Meeting of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) was held on the sideline of the 144<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly on Sunday 20 March 2022 in Nusa Dua- Bali (Indonesia).

This event was chaired by H.E Mrs. Ravza KAVAKCI KAN, Head of the Turkish Delegation to IPU, who represented the APA President at this Meeting.

Parliamentary delegations from Bahrain, Cambodia, India, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, United Arab Emirate, Yemen and Secretary General of the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union were present at this meeting.

The APA Deputy Secretary General, Amb. Kia Tabatabaee called the meeting to order and invited the participants for adoption of the Agenda.

The Agenda of the APA Coordinating Meeting was presented by the Deputy Secretary General and unanimously adopted. Items of the Agenda included as follows:

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Opening address by the Chairperson, H.E. Mrs. Ravza KAVAKCI KAN, Head of the Turkish Delegation to IPU in her capacity as representative of the APA President,
3. Remarks by Amb. Kia Tabatabaee, APA Deputy Secretary General on:
  - a) Activities of the APA Secretariat since last Meeting in Madrid,
  - b) A short briefing on the APA virtual meeting of 17 May 2022, “Parliamentary *Forum on Library and Research Cooperation*”
4. Consideration of the proposals on emergency item,,
5. Any other business

❖ **Opening address by the Chairperson, H.E. Mrs. Ravza KAVAKCI KAN:**

Mrs. Kavakci Kan started with a few welcoming words and conveyed the wishes of H.E Mr. Mustafa SENTOP who could not attend the meeting personally.

She then touched on the military conflict currently underway in Ukraine and strongly rejected Russia's military operation against Ukraine calling this act of Russia as violation of international law and expressed her country's position for support of the sovereignty, political unity and territorial integrity of Ukraine.

She added that her country keep contacts with Russians, continuing to call on them to stop the unlawful assault and get back to the path of dialogue and diplomacy.

She then referred to APA as the largest inter-parliamentary institution in Asia, which has contributed to the stability, prosperity and development of Asia. She also called APA as an important institution of parliamentary diplomacy, which has become an essential element of the democratic contemporary world.

In another part of her speech, she underlined the efforts made by Turkey during its Term of APA Presidency to strengthen and carry the work of APA forward in cooperation with and support of the member parliaments and its General Secretariat, despite the Pandemic.

Finally she expressed hope that the worthy task of presidency is handed over to another member parliament at the next APA Plenary Meeting.

Mrs. KAVAKCI KAN underscore the APA diplomatic endeavors undertaken to carry out the planned meetings within the IPU framework in the course of endorsing multilateral mechanisms in Asia.

Therefore, she expressed her sincere hope that the meeting on the sideline of the 144<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly would serve the purpose of strengthening and furthering the pace of parliamentary diplomacy under the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, as well as conveying our message of insisting on advancement of international cooperation and dialogue in the region.

She concluded her address expressing her sincere appreciation on behalf of the participants to the APA Secretariat for the organization of the meeting. ([Attachment I](#))

❖ **Remarks by Amb. Kia Tabatabaee, APA Deputy Secretary General:** Mr. Tabatabaee began his address thanking the participants who honored the Secretariat invitation and attended this meeting. He also conveyed best wishes of Dr. Majidi, the APA Secretary General for not being able to personally attend this event due to some reasons beyond his control.

APA Deputy Secretary General continued by referring to the first APA Coordinating Meeting held here in Bali 15 years ago in May 2007 in the course of 116 IPU Assembly one year after the birth of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly and thanked Indonesia for its active contribution to the APA.

He said during the past one and half decades since the birth of APA, this regional organization has succeeded to gain invaluable experiences as a regional parliamentary body with an extensive number of members in the vast and densely populated Continent of Asia by benefitting from the privileges of parliamentary approaches in the face of new emerging challenges.

As regards the APA activities and its programs since the APA sideline meeting in Madrid, Mr. Tabatabaee gave a brief report in this respect , referring to all the efforts made for nomination of presidency in the coming term of 2022-2023.

As regards APA future programs, APA Deputy Secretary General touched on parliamentary research cooperation as part of the programs pursued by the APA Secretariat and the decision to convene a virtual meeting with participation of lawmakers, academia, researchers and thin tanks from across Asia for 17 May 2022.

Finally, he expressed his sincere thanks to the APA President and the Vice-Presidents who collectively made every efforts to lay the foundation of APA and the endeavors undertaken to give impetus to the success of parliamentary democracy in the whole Asia. ([Attachment II](#))

❖ On item 4 of the Agenda regarding the proposals for emergency Item, the Chair called on the participants to express their views in this respect.

Under this item, there were three proposals with the same substantive context about the war in Ukraine submitted by the following IPU member countries:

1. **Ukraine:** *“Russian and Belarusian aggression against Ukraine”.*
2. **Indonesia:** *“The role of parliaments in supporting a peaceful resolution to the Russian-Ukrainian conflict”.*
3. **New Zealand:** *Peaceful resolution of the war in Ukraine, respecting international law, the Charter of the United Nations and territorial integrity”.*

- ❖ As regards this item, there was a good consensus among the participants. The UAE delegation, while supporting the proposed items stated that the conflict between Russia and Ukraine is an issue of great concern to all of us and a balanced position should be taken in this respect as it should not be looked into one-sidedly. He said as representatives of the people and it was our duty is to look into the matter from both sides. He continued adding that dialogue between the parties is very important and they should solve the issue through negotiation. The UN should duly take action in this respect. Finally, he supported issuance of a balanced statement in this respect.

Humanitarian aids, due care for displaced people and negotiations without any outside inferences were also among other points raised in support of the proposed emergency items about the current war in Ukraine

- ❖ As there was no other item in the agenda, the Chair closed the meeting and appreciated the delegates for their participation.

## **Attachment I**

### **Opening Address by the Chair of Meeting H.E Mrs. Ravza KAVAKCI KAN, Head of the Turkish Delegation to the IPU and Representative of the APA President**

#### **Honorable Members of the Distinguished Parliaments**

#### **Dear Participants,**

I would like to express that it is a privilege to be with you at this important APA Coordination Meeting and welcome you all. I would also like to convey best wishes of H.E. Mr. Mustafa SENTOP, who was not able to attend the 144<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly due to his dense agenda and recent developments in the region.

At the outset, I would like to underline that we strongly reject Russia's military operation against Ukraine and consider it a grave violation of international law. Our support for the sovereignty, political unity and territorial integrity of Ukraine will continue.

Humanitarian conditions are worsening and civilian loss and casualties are increasing. There is an urgent need for ceasefire and humanitarian corridors to evacuate people struck in cities under bombardment and ensure delivery of humanitarian aid.

We are in contact with Russians and we are continuing to call on them to stop this unlawful assault and to get back to the path of dialogue and diplomacy. As you may be aware, our President, H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdogan, meet with the leaders of both countries. Our Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mevlut Cavusoglu, also met with his counterparts for many times, Ministers for Foreign Affairs of both Russia and Ukraine came together in Turkey during the Antalya Diplomacy Forum.

As being the largest inter-parliamentary institution in Asia, APA has contributed greatly to the stability, prosperity and development of Asia, I believe that the work carried out by APA, which covers not only politics, but also socio-cultural and economic relations, have an important place in Asian continent as well as global level. APA is an important institution of parliamentary diplomacy, which has become an essential element of the democratic contemporary world.

During our Presidency, we have done our best to strengthen and carry the work of APA forward with the cooperation and the support of the member parliaments and General Secretariat, despite the Pandemic. I hope to hand over this worthy task to another member parliament at the next General Assembly meeting. In this manner, I would like to underline the importance of maintaining our efforts to contribute to the parliamentary diplomacy and APA's activities through all kinds of platforms.

#### **Excellencies,**

Today we are here, because we will continue our diplomatic endeavors and carry out the planned meetings within the IPU framework. We will keep endorsing multilateral mechanisms

in Asia, especially in an era in which promoting international dialogues, peaceful resolution of international issues and confidence-building measures has become significant more than ever.

In this regards, I sincerely hope that our gathering today will serve the purpose of strengthening and furthering the pace of parliamentary diplomacy under the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, as well as conveying our message of insisting on the advancement of international cooperation and dialogue in the region. Therefore, I deem these meetings important, and believe that they will lead us to take more resolute stance and concrete steps to sustain APA activities.

Before concluding, I would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the APA secretariat for the organization of this meeting and to the Secretariat of IPU and our host Indonesia for their efforts for organization of the 144<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly and for their warm hospitality.

Thank you

## **Attachment II**



**Remarks by H.E. Amb. Kia Tabatabaee  
Deputy Secretary General of Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA)**

**At**

**The APA Coordinating Meeting**

**On the Sideline of the 144th IPU Assembly**

**Sunday 20 March 2022  
Bali, Nusa Dua (Indonesia)**

**Madam Chair,  
Distinguished Parliamentarians,**

It is indeed a privilege for me to express my warm welcome to you for participating at this Coordinating Meeting, most particularly, those APA members who celebrate the first day of spring as a traditional feast of Nowruz.

I also would like to convey the best wishes from Dr. Majidi, APA Secretary General, who unfortunately had to cancel his trip to Bali, due to reasons beyond his control.

Thanks God for His gracious blessings, giving the APA Member Parliaments this blessed opportunity to come together once again here in Bali to discuss issues of common interest and share their perspectives on how to work together toward achieving a strong APA in favor of an integrated Asia.

I am also pleased to offer my sincere gratitude to Her Excellency Dr. Ravza KAVAKCI KAN, Head of the Turkish Delegation to the IPU who chairs our meeting today.

It was nearly 15 years ago in May 2007, when the first APA Coordination Meeting was held here at this beautiful resort city just one year after the birth of APA in 2006, in the course of the 116<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly.

For this amazing coincidence, I deem it necessary to express my deepest appreciation to the government and parliament of Indonesia as the host of the 144<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly and one of the active members of our Organization.

In fact, Indonesia has played a major role in the advancement of APA programs as APA President in 2009. During this period, Parliament of Indonesia wholeheartedly and generously hosted several APA meetings:

Considering such a commendable records of cooperation with APA Secretariat, Indonesia is reckoned as one of the earliest proponents of the initiative aimed at creating regional and international organizations. With such a successfully exemplar records for multilateral

cooperation, APA highly expects to benefit from valuable contribution of this APA active member in future ever than before.

During the past one and half decades since its birth, APA as a regional parliamentary body with an extensive number of members in the vast and densely populated Continent of Asia has succeeded to gain invaluable experiences benefitting from the privileges of parliamentary approaches in the face of new emerging challenges.

Characterized for its diverse cultural and religious affiliations as well as well-versed capacity, the APA can provide a wonderful status for its members to close ranks through parliamentary mechanisms in order to achieve the common objectives envisaged in its Charter.

As regards the APA activities and programs since our meeting in Madrid and our future programs, I would like to draw your attention to the following:

**a) Programs pursued within the interval since our Meeting in Madrid:**

- During the past four months, APA Secretariat has been in close consultation with the APA President to duly streamline its programs for 2022-2023. To this end, the Secretariat has regularly communicated with the APA Member Parliaments informing them of the lapse of the current term of presidency and the need for collective efforts to nominate and elect the APA president for the new term of 2022-2023.
- On the other hand, due to certain unexpected overlapping of the current programs of the Turkish Parliament, the APA president decided to postpone the 13<sup>th</sup> plenary Session to sometimes-in May 2022. Following the Turkish Parliament's proposal to hold the 13<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting in the third week of May, the Secretary General of the APA replied that in the absence of a candidate for the presidency of the APA for the term 2022-23, this plenary meeting would not be held. Türkiye expresses her readiness to host the 13<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting in case of the required conditions are met.
- However, the APA Secretariat has done its responsibility in this respect and has been able to officially register nomination of the three vice-presidents who will ex-officio chair the Standing Committee Meetings as follows:
  1. UAE as Vice-President and Chair of the Standing Committee on Cultural and Social Affairs,
  2. Islamic Republic of Iran as Vice-President and Chair of the Standing Committee on Budget and Planning,
  3. Kuwait as Vice-President and Chair of the Standing Committee on Political Affairs,

4. The post for Vice-President and Chair of the Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development is currently vacant.

**b) APA future programs:**

In a bid to enhance further parliamentary research cooperation among the APA member states, the APA Secretariat has decided to convene a virtual meeting with participation of lawmakers, academia, researchers and think tanks from across Asia.

This event, which is scheduled for **17 May 2022** is intended to stimulate expertise opinions in order to further elaborate parliamentary diplomacy in Asia from different dimensions.

Since its establishment in 2006, APA has made every efforts to give a new impetus to parliamentary diplomacy by creating a platform which encompasses large number of parliaments from a widely extensive continent with diverse cultural and beliefs as well as huge resources.

Let me conclude my remarks with wholehearted thanks to the APA President, and the Vice-Presidents as well as all their predecessors who collectively spared no efforts to lay the foundation of a representative institute that would make parliamentary democracy a success in the whole Asia.

Thank you for your attention