



APA Coordinating Meeting on the sideline of the 145th IPU Assembly

Room MH1
Kigali (Rwanda)
Tuesday, 11 October 2022

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 145th IPU Assembly on Tuesday 11 October 2022 in Kigali- Rwanda.

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. Representatives of the following APA Member Parliaments attended this meeting:

Bahrain, Cambodia, Indonesia, India, Iran, Jordan, Maldives, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, United Arab Emirate, Yemen

The APA Secretary General, Dr. Mohammad Reza Majidi called the meeting to order and invited the Chair to adopt the agenda.

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

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Opening remarks 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. Brief report Dr. Mohamad Reza Majidi, APA Secretary General on the activities of the APA Secretariat since the last Meeting in Bali- Indonesia, followed by a short briefing on the APA future programs,
4. Consideration of the emergency items proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 145th IPU Assembly
5. Any other matters

Opening remarks by the Chair of the APA Coordinating Meeting:

The Chair began by thanking all the attendees for their participation. She also conveyed the wishes of H.E Mr. Mustafa SENTOP, the Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkiye

(TBMM) and H.E. Asuman Erdogan, Head of APA Turkish Delegation who could not attend the meeting personally at the 145th IPU Assembly.

She referred to the main purpose of the APA Coordination Meetings alongside the IPU Assemblies, under the APA Resolution of 29 Nov. 2008, as one of the important decision taken by the member parliaments to deepen cooperation and coordination on major important international issues of interest to the parliamentary delegations representing APA Member Parliaments at IPU Assemblies.

The chair further referred to the saddening developments in Ukraine and said the military operation launched by the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation against Ukraine was unacceptable and rejected.

She also welcomed the inclusion in the Agenda of the 145th IPU Assembly of such highly relevant and timely topics such as climate change, democracy and human rights and peace process and sustainable development.

The Chair also underscored the importance of such other issues such as communication technology for education sector, the increasing trend of hunger and famine issues .

She also referred to the importance of parliamentary diplomacy and the work of parliamentarians by taking part in international organizations.

Finally, she concluded her remarks by declaring that the upcoming 13rd APA Plenary is due to be held in Turkiye and expressed hope that APA Presidency is taken over by another APA Member country in the upcoming APA Plenary.

[\(Attachment I\)](#)

Report of the APA Secretary General on the activities of APA:

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

He also seized this opportunity to express condolences of the APA Secretariat to the delegation of Pakistan and shared sympathy with the government, parliament and people of Pakistan for the recent devastating flood in that country.

Furthermore, APA Secretary General extended his special appreciation to H.E. Prof. Mustaf Sentop for his unsparing dedications in the course of his presidency over APA and welcomed his decision to hold the 13 Plenary by the end of current year.

Convening of the virtual Parliamentary Forum on Research and Library Cooperation held in Tehran was among the important initiatives undertaken by the APA Secretariat to bring together parliamentary experts and lawmaker to exchange views on research cooperation in law making process in the parliaments of member countries.

In conclusion, Dr. Majidi expressed his gratitude to the Chair of the meeting and all the participants for their cooperation.

[\(Attachment II\)](#)

**Consideration of the Emergency Items proposed for inclusion in the agenda of 145 IPU
Assembly**

As regards this item of Agenda, the Chair stated that we have so far received one item on emergency item proposed by Pakistan entitled as follows:

"Creation of a global fund or financing facility for climate-vulnerable countries to address loss and damage associated with climate change"

The Chair gave the floor to the participants who had comments concerning the proposed item.

Pakistan took the floor and said it was an honor to speak at this meeting and congratulated the APA Organization for its effort to advance parliamentary diplomacy. He also thanked the APA President and the Secretary General who endeavored to do their regular meetings without cessation despite all problems, especially during the health restrictions in the aftermath of global pandemic.

He continued and said parliaments were also responsible for economic development of people, especially in relation to the fulfilment of Sustainable Development Goals(SDGs) and climate change, requiring effective, accountable and transparent institutions.

He said he would also like to touch on some inequalities in how people are impacted by climate change with the poorest and less equipped to withstand climate shocks are facing the brunt. Pakistan was among the ten countries, most affected by extreme weather events, despite its very low carbon footprint according to the Global Climate Risk Index 2021 and Climate Watch.

In this regard, he would urge all APA Member Parliaments to support the emergency item proposed by Pakistan to help this country in rehabilitating and rebuilding its material loss. The Pandemics and climate change, have been an eye opener that no nation can survive on its own. International Community should also take cognizance of the limited resources available to many developing states that are facing climate change disaster, especially without contributing much in

terms of CO₂. Therefore, it is high time that a major debt relief should be provided to countries in need to allow them fiscal space for achievement of SDG#13.

[\(Attachment III\)](#)

Representative of Iran also took the floor and expressed his appreciation to the APA President and its Secretary General for their dedicated efforts to advance the objectives of APA. He also expressed hope that in the coming future the APA members would join together again and discuss their issues of interest. Unfortunately, recent flood in Pakistan led to a great loss to this country.

He continued and extended full support of the Iranian delegation of the item proposed by Pakistan. He also expressed hope that all members commit themselves to their obligations on reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to control further global warming.

Representative of Jordan also made his comments in respect of this item. While he offered support of his delegation of the item proposed by Pakistan, expressed his concern over the issues of refugees received by his subject countries from the neighboring states and said this

was a great pressure on Jordan. Refugees issue should be also equally addressed and hope that IPU would take note of this issue, he remarked

Then the Chair asked for further clarification of the issue raised by the representative of Jordan asking if he was proposing a separate item in this respect or wanted to suggest a consolidation of his idea with the item proposed by Pakistan.

In reply, Jordan representative said he would submit a text on his idea to the IPU Secretariat.

As representative of Turkiye , the Chair also offered her sympathy with Pakistan for the sufferings they endured as result of the recent devastating flood in Pakistan.

Regarding the APA future meetings, the Chair declared that the 13th APA Plenary would be hosted by the GNAT by the end of the current year. Also, she expressed hope that one of the member parliaments would take the presidency for the next term.

As there was no comment on the last item of the Agenda, the Chair closed the meeting and thanked the participants for their attendance.

Attachment I

PAB BAŞKANI SAYIN RAVZA KAVAKÇI KAN'IN 145. PARLAMENTOLAR ARASI
BİRLİK (PAB) GENEL KURULU KAPSAMINDA GERÇEKLEŞTİRİLECEK ASYA
PARLAMENTER ASAMBLESİ (APA) KOORDİNASYON TOPLANTISI AÇILIŞINDA
YARARLANABİLECEKLERİ KONUŞMA NOTU
(11 Ekim 2022- Kigali, RUANDA)

**Excellencies,
Distinguished Members of the Parliaments,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

With much pleasure, I would like to thank you for your participation in the APA Coordination Meeting today here in Kigali.

Therefore, allow me to start by extending my heartfelt appreciation for Rwanda's authorities for successful hosting of meeting of 145th Assembly of the Intern-Parliamentary Union.

I would also like to convey the best wishes of H.E. Mustafa Şentop, the Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye (TBMM) and H.E. Asuman Erdoğan, Head of Turkish Delegation of APA for the success of our meeting.

And, I would like to thank Mr. Secretary-General for his briefing on APA activities. It was a precise and useful briefing.

As you know during each meeting of IPU Assembly, the APA organizes a sideline meeting to have the views of all members based on the APA Resolution, dated November 29th, 2008, with the aim to deepen cooperation and coordination on major important international issues of interest to the parliamentary delegations representing APA Member Parliaments at IPU Assemblies.

I am also delighted to have the privilege of joint you once again to exchange views on matters of mutual interest since our last meeting in Bali, Indonesia. Also, here in Kigali on the occasion of 145th IPU Assembly, I expect to benefit from this opportunity and witness active contribution of all the APA members and wish success for this meeting.

During the past one year, APA has had various activities which will be referred by Mr. Secretary General in his report and we hope that in the coming months ahead we will witness to have the opportunity to share our works together.

We are witnessing the saddening developments in Ukraine with concern. We consider the military operation launched by the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation against Ukraine unacceptable and reject it. Therefore, we call on the Russian Federation to immediately stop this unjust and unlawful act. Our support for the political unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine will continue.

I am glad to see that the agenda of the 145th Assembly of the Inter parliamentary Union includes highly relevant and timely topics such as climate change, democracy and human rights and peace processes and sustainable development.

No doubt that climate change is one of the challenges that calls for our immediate attention. As Turkiye, we are determined to contribute more to the global climate action efforts. With this understanding, Turkiye ratified the Paris Agreement as a testimony of our sincere determination on combating climate change. We plan to update our National Determined Contribution (NDC) before the end of this year.

Another important agenda item is communication technology for the education sector.

Turkiye considers the higher education as an important pillar of public diplomacy. With this understanding the Turkish Council of Higher Education has been signing Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) on higher education with an important number of countries. We are also trying to improve our academic relations by establishing universities with different countries on the basis of mutual agreements.

On the other hand, I would like to draw attention to the increasing danger of hunger and famine with is also include in the reports of the UN. We believe that it is important to talk about the measures to be taken against increasing hunger and to exchange information. For this reason, we believe that it will be beneficial to discuss the measures to be taken under the umbrella of the IPU.

We believe the significance of parliamentary diplomacy and the work of parliamentarians by taking part in international organizations. We deem parliamentary diplomacy as essential mechanism so as to take action and initiate new mechanisms and approaches to address the global challenges and issues on the APA's agenda.

Dear Colleagues,

Importantly, I would like to take this opportunity to announce that the 13th plenary of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly will be held in Turkiye. As the current APA President, Turkiye also hopes and expects that the APA Presidency will be taken over by another APA Member country in the upcoming APA Plenary to be held in Turkey.

Dear Colleagues,

I sincerely hope that the outcomes of today's meeting would be beneficial for our great nations. Last but not least, it is a pleasure for me to take this opportunity to thank the Rwanda once more.

Thank you

Attachment II

**Remarks by H.E Dr. Mohammad Reza Majidi
Secretary General of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly
At the APA Coordination Meeting
On the Sideline of the 145th IPU Assembly
October 11, 2022
Kigali (Rwanda)**

**Madam Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Colleagues,**

Please allow me, at the outset, to express my sincere appreciation to all the honorable MPs, who have honored invitation of the APA Secretariat and joined us at this meeting. Your presence here is an indication of your interest to share with us your experiences and perspectives in various area of parliamentary cooperation and development of parliamentary diplomacy as a major objective pursued by our organization.

Also allow me to take this opportunity to join together and offer our deepest condolences and full support to the government, parliament and the people of Pakistan; an active member of our organization, who have recently experienced a devastating flood disaster which caused massive destruction and heavy losses of life.

Dear Colleagues,

I also would like to seize this excellent opportunity to express, on behalf of all the APA Members and on behalf of myself in the capacity as the APA Secretary General, my heartfelt appreciations and gratitude to the leadership of GNAT for its wise and sagacious management of our organization under the commendable efforts of its speakers during the past 5 years since the time GNAT took over the APA Presidency in 2017. During this period, the APA Presidency, in close cooperation with the APA Secretariat and partnership with its members has successfully strived to infuse a new spirit and insight into the development of parliamentary diplomacy by giving parliamentary mechanisms its due weight.

Dear Colleagues,

APA Secretariate has made every effort to keep its close contact with all the member parliaments and has been able to successfully carry out within its mandate all the assigned duties and to hold all its regular meetings and some other additional events despite all the health restrictions imposed in the aftermath of the global pandemic.

APA Secretariat undertook the initiative to organize a virtual research forum on 17 May this year as part of the programs pursued by the APA Secretariat to further underscore and appreciate features of parliamentary visions for international cooperation and as a step onward

for the advancement of parliamentary diplomacy. It was under this initiative that APA Secretariate hosted a virtual forum under the title of:

“Parliamentary Forum on Research and Library Cooperation”
In Commemoration of 15 Years of Parliamentary Achievements in Asia

This research forum which was held for the first time in the history of our organization was duly welcomed by the APA member parliaments who interactively contributed to the enrichment of deliberations through this window of opportunity by their active participation and sharing perspectives in the area of parliamentary diplomacy.

Participants at this meeting included a wide range of experts, lawmakers, academia, researchers and think tanks from across Asia who took interest to contribute to our initiative by sharing their research experiences on parliamentary matters.

This one-day virtual event could bring together participants from 20 APA member parliaments who overwhelmingly presented their research papers within the three organized panels. The viewpoints expressed by participants at this research meeting indicated that there was a collective support among APA member parliaments for the establishment of a parliamentary research library network under the auspices of our organization in order to be able to have access to a wide range of law-making experiences within the vast continent of Asia.

Ladies and Gentlemen

As regards the APA future programs, I have the honor to reiterate that the GNAT under the leadership of H.E. Prof. Sentop and the incumbent APA President have generously accepted to continue the APA Presidency for the year 2023, therefore, it will host the 13th Plenary by the end of the current year in Turkiye.

I conclude my remarks by thanking all the APA member parliaments who have earnestly supported us to do every effort in our power and to steadily work hand in hand for the growth and progress of our organization.

Attachment III

Kigali, Rwanda
11th October, 2022

**APA Parliamentary Assembly
Coordinating Meeting on the
Sidelines of the 145th IPU
Assembly**

Draft Statement



**Senate Secretariat
RESEARCH DIRECTORATE**

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**Honorable Speakers, Members of Parliaments,
Excellencies, Dignitaries,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Assalam-o-Alaikum

It is a great honor to address Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) Coordinating Meeting on the sideline of the 145th IPU Assembly,

Let me also congratulate you all for your commendable efforts to facilitate parliamentary diplomacy and to empower parliamentarians and parliaments to promote peace, sustainable development, prosperity and democracy in Asia.

I also felicitate and extend our profound gratitude to the President of APA, H.E. Prof. Mustafa Sentop and APA Secretary General for leading and guiding the work of APA, despite difficult times due to COVID-19.

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a pleasure to see that today, Asian Parliamentary Assembly, has transformed itself into a potent multilateral regional forum to lead Asia and give voice to its more than 4 billion inhabitants, more recently, APA Parliamentary Forum on Research and Library virtual session held in May 2022 was a welcome new addition to its workings. Likewise, from past 15 years, APA has transformed into largest Asian Parliamentary body, but is also high time to take further integration process of Asia and build synergies between Member Parliaments on concluding pending agendas of APA and implementation of decisions and resolutions of APA within our region.

To this end Working Group on Asian Parliament, established to build consensus on the model of Asian Parliament, may engage with academia and civil society to devise a framework for Asian Parliament.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Parliaments are also responsible towards economic development of people, especially in relation to the fulfilment of Sustainable Development Goals(SDGs) and climate change, requiring effective, accountable and transparent institutions. I would also like to bring your attention to the inequality in how people are impacted by climate change with the poorest and less equipped to withstand climate shocks are facing the brunt. Pakistan is among the ten countries, most affected by extreme weather events, despite its very low carbon footprint according to the Global Climate Risk Index 2021 and Climate Watch. We have faced severe monsoon weather, since June 2022, which has caused widespread destructions, with severe repercussions for human lives, property and infrastructure.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

According to initial estimates around 33 million people across the country are affected by floods. At least, 1500 people were killed and 1,527 people injured with more than 719,000 livestock have died. More than 1.7 million homes, over twelve thousand kilometers of roads, 350 bridges and 5 million acres of crops, have been destroyed. Total damage is estimated at over \$30 billion, almost 10% of Pakistan GDP. National efforts are underway to support people affected by the ongoing rains and floods, international solidarity is crucial to adequately address the impacts.

In this regard, I would urge all APA Member Parliaments to support the emergency item proposed by Pakistan to help us in rehabilitating and rebuilding our material loss. The Pandemics and climate change, have been an eye opener that no nation can survive on its own. International Community should also take cognizance of the limited resources available to many developing states that are facing climate change disaster, especially without contributing much in

Terms of CO2. Therefore, it is high time that a major debt relief should be provided to countries in need to allow them fiscal space for achievement of SDG#13.

I once again express my confidence that with our collective wisdom and determination we will rise to the occasion and provide guidelines for durable peace and prosperity across Asia.

Thank you

Attachment IV

**Statement by H.E. Dr. Mohamamd Reza Majidi
Secretary General of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly**

At

145th IPU Assembly

11-15 October 2022

Kigali (Rwanda)

**On the Theme: Gender equality and gender-sensitive parliaments as drivers of change
for a more resilient and peaceful world**

Mr. / Madame Chairperson

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear Colleagues,

It is a great honor for me to participate in the 145th IPU Assembly in the beautiful city of Kigali. I would like to express my gratitude to the people, the parliament and the government of Rwanda for the warm hospitality and also thank the IPU Secretariat for the necessary arrangements

The history and experience of this country in the last few decades has left many valuable lessons for the Continent of African and the world, and I hope this Assembly will provide an opportunity to introduce more features of this land, its people and its experiences to the world. For the people of Rwanda and the countries of the region of Great Lakes , I wish sustainable peace and security and comprehensive development and prosperity.

Due to time constraint, it is not possible to address various dimensions of all the important issues to be deliberated by this Assembly. For the sake of brevity, I would like to merely touch on the positive efforts made within the theme under discussion by our parliamentary organization.

Dear Colleagues,

Considering the positive approaches of the Asian parliamentary Assembly for women's status in parliamentary affairs and in a bid to attach greater importance to their enhanced participation and representation in political, cultural and public decision -making as prerequisites for the legitimacy of democracies and human rights, therefore, APA decided to establish the Coordinating Meeting of APA Women Parliamentarians to meet annually at the time of APA Plenary Sessions , as an important gesture indicating APA's focus on the matters of specific concern to women. In effect, promotion of women status in Asia at national, regional and international levels is one of the key objectives pursued by this APA Special Committee.

In the resolution on APA Women Parliamentarians, following items have been underlined:

- Adoption of legislations by APA Member Parliaments to facilitate women's representations in Asian Parliaments;
- APA Women Parliamentarians are encouraged to lead by example and place the interest of women at the heart of policy and decision making as an endeavor to encourage and engage more women into politics;
- Information and awareness campaigns for promoting the integration of women into political participation and decision-making with a view to facilitate reaching national and international parliamentary institutions is recommended
- APA Member Parliaments are encouraged to recognize the concerns of women, and to promote gender equality and empowerment of women with respect to national and cultural particularities of the Member States;

Finally, I deem it necessary to remind that in respect of support for human rights and democracy as well as women's rights we must take great care not fall into the trap of mediocracy, because one of the plagues of democracy in today's world is the images created and manipulated by the media outlet instead of focus on reality.

I thank you