



## Executive Council Meeting

8 January 2023  
Antalya, Republic of Turkiye

# Final Report

The Executive Council Meeting of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) was held on 8 January 2023 in Antalya, Republic of Turkiye and Parliamentary delegations from the following member countries participated in the meeting:

Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Cyprus, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lao DPR, Kuwait, Qatar, Pakistan, Palestine, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, UAE, Timor-Leste, Turkiye and Yemen.

### 1. Adoption of the Agenda:

The Member Parliaments adopted the Draft Agenda. ([Attachment I](#))

### 2. Election of the Bureau:

The following members of the Bureau were elected by acclamation:

Chairperson: H.E. Mrs. A. ERDOGAN (Turkiye)

Vice Chair: H.E. Ms. G. PASHAYEVA (Azerbaijan)

Rapporteur: H.E. Ms. N. SADIQ (Pakistan)

### **3. Remarks by the Chairperson of the Executive Council**

Statement of the chairperson of the EC is attached.

### **4. Report by APA Secretary-General:**

Secretary General reported on the activities of Standing Committees as well as Working Group on Statutory Documents.

[\(Attachment II\)](#)

### **5. Consideration of Draft Resolutions of the Standing Committees on:**

#### **● Social and Cultural Affairs**

Out of the 13 draft resolutions, 11 drafts were adopted and the resolutions on “*Humanitarian Aid and Migrant Workers*” were deferred to the next Standing Committee meeting.

Debates on the two new Draft Resolutions on “Tourism” were deferred to the next meeting as well.

[\(Attachment III\)](#)

#### **● Economic and Sustainable Development**

Out of the 8 Draft Resolutions, 6 drafts were adopted with minor changes and the draft resolutions on Economic Growth and Water and Sanitation were deferred to the next meeting of the Standing Committee.

[\(Attachment IV\)](#)

#### **● SC on Political Affairs**

Out of the 9 draft resolution 6 drafts were adopted by consensus. On consideration of the draft resolution on “*Asian Parliaments’ Unwavering Support for the Palestinian people*”, the Palestinian delegation raised the proposal of establishment of a “Commission” within the APA to address the issues concerning Palestine and requested adoption of this proposal due to a large number of support received from the floor. After exchanges of views among several delegations, the Chair requested the Palestinian delegation to give some more details on Terms of References, Modality of Establishment etc, so that the issue can be addressed step by step. She also offered to accommodate this proposal in the Draft Antalya Declaration. Draft resolution on “*Towards an Asian Parliament*” and the new draft resolution on “*Enhancing Cooperation among the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly to Protect and Promote Multilateralism*” were deferred to the next Standing Committee meeting.

The Secretariat announced that due to the fact that the Standing Committee on Political Affairs has already held its meeting this morning, this Committee will not be held on 10 January 2023.

[\(Attachment V\)](#)

- **SC on Budget and Planning**

Consideration of the only draft resolution before this Committee was deferred to the next Standing Committee meeting.

[\(Attachment VI\)](#)

During the debates over the draft resolutions before the four Standing Committees, many delegations asked their views/comments to be incorporated into relevant draft resolutions. In response, the representative of APA

Secretariat called on the participants to formulate their views and forward them to the APA Secretariat for consideration at next Standing Committee meetings.

## **6. Consideration and Adoption of the Report of Working Group on Statutory Documents**

The Chair requested the Secretariat to present the final report of the WG on Statutory Documents. It was mentioned that the first session of the WG was held on Oct. 12-13, 2021 in Urgup, Turkiye. In the course of two sessions, the participating delegations thoroughly discussed over the text of the amended draft of the APA Charter and out of the 19 Articles 4 Articles were cleared. The final report of the WG on Statutory Documents was adopted.

The future work of the WG on Statutory Documents was debated among participants. The Chair proposed the need to change the modality of approaching the work of this Working Group in order to expedite the process. She added that “Experts” should be involved and the outcome of their work should be reviewed by Member Parliaments later on.

[\(Attachment VII\)](#)

## **7. Consideration of Nominations of Vice Presidents for 2023**

The following member Parliaments volunteered to host the Standing Committee meetings:

- Economic and Sustainable Development: Kingdom of Bahrain
- Political Affairs: Republic of Iraq
- Budget and Planning: I.R. of Iran
- Social and Cultural: Azerbaijan

## **8. Consideration of Nominations of APA President for 2024-5**

The Chair as well as the APA Secretary General encouraged participants to actively and positively consider this item and nominate themselves for the high position of APA President for 2024-5.

## **9. Consideration and Adoption of Draft Agenda of the 13th APA Plenary**

The draft agenda of the 13th APA Plenary was adopted unanimously.

[\(Attachment VIII\)](#)

## **10. Request for APA Observer status**

1. Consideration of the request of the League of Parliamentarians for Al-Quds to be granted APA Observer status was deferred to the next meeting.
2. The request of the Arab Parliament for APA Observer status was considered and adopted.
3. The request of NAM Parliament Network for APA Observer status was considered and adopted.
4. The request of International Parliamentarians' Congress (IPC) for APA Observer status was considered and adopted.

## **11. Any other matters**

**No issue was raised.**

Attachment I

## Asian Parliamentary Assembly



### Executive Council Meeting

Antalya ,Türkiye  
8-10January2023



### Draft Agenda

(12/12/2022 by APA Secretariat)-V6

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Election of the Bureau
3. Remarks by Chairperson of the Executive Council
4. Report by APA Secretary General
5. Consideration of Draft Resolutions of Standing Committees on:
  - Social and Cultural Affairs
  - Economic and Sustainable Development
  - Political Affairs
  - Budget and Planning
6. Consideration and Adoption of the Report of Working Group on Statutory Documents
7. Consideration of Nominations of Vice Presidents for 2023
8. Consideration of Nominations of APA President for 2024-5
9. Consideration and Adoption of Draft Agenda of 13th APA Plenary
10. Request for APA Observer status
11. Any other matters
12. Closing



## Executive Council Meeting

Antalya, Türkiye  
8-10 January 2023

### Report of the Secretary General

**Madam Chairperson,**  
**Distinguished Delegate,**  
**Dear Colleagues,**

I have the pleasure to present my Report as Secretary General to the APA Executive Council Meeting on the latest activities and the outcomes of the APA Standing Committees and that of the Working Group on Statutory Documents during the year 2021.

Before I begin my report, allow me to once again take this opportunity to express, on behalf of myself and my colleagues in the APA Permanent Secretariat our deepest appreciation to H.E. Prof. Mustafa SENTAP, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye and his representative, H.E Mrs. Asuman ERDOGAN, for their generous and excellent organization of the 13<sup>th</sup> Plenary and related meetings at this beautiful and historic city of Antalya.

**Madam Chairperson,**  
**Distinguished Delegate,**

In the year 2021, the APA Secretariat succeeded to fulfill the assigned missions through organization of virtual holding the following Standing Committee

meetings under the wise management of the Republic of Turkiye and leadership of APA Vice – Presidents:

### **1- Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development**

The virtual meeting of this Committee was held on 20 May 2021 in Manama and hosted by the Council of Representatives of the Kingdom of Bahrain. Parliamentary delegations from 20 member countries participated at this meeting.

The Committee had before it 8 draft resolutions. After necessary deliberations, 6 out of the total 8 drafts were adopted by consensus and the other 2 draft entitled “*Ensuring Efforts for Economic Growth*” and “*Water and Sanitation in Asia for All*” were deferred to the next meeting for further consideration.

At this meeting, Heads of the two Working Groups on Green Funding (Russia) and on Water Crisis (Iran) presented their reports, but there was no report of the Working Group on Integrated Asian Energy Market due to the absence of its Chair from Kuwait.

### **2- Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs**

The Meeting was hosted by the Islamic Parliament of Iran on 14 July 2021, and parliamentary delegations from 25 member countries participated at the Meeting.

After extensive debates and exchange of views, 11 draft resolutions were adopted by consensus and the other two draft resolutions on “*Humanitarian Aid*” and on “*Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers in Asia*” were deferred to the next meeting of the SC for further consideration. Two new draft resolutions on “*Tourism Cooperation in Asia*” were also introduced by Turkish and Iran delegations and adopted in principle.



On the Agenda item “*Consideration of the Situation of Women Parliamentarians in Asia,*” delegations of Iran, Pakistan, Philippines, Yemen, Bangladesh and U.A.E. presented their views to the meeting.

### **3- Standing Committee on Budget and Planning**

At this Committee Meeting which was hosted by the State Duma of the Russian Federation on 4 August 2021, delegations from 13 member countries were present.

Participants at this meeting considered the only draft resolution before it on “*Planning APA Budge*” and debated over the amount of the Assessed Contribution, its background and the APA model of payment.

In conclusion, the Chair stated that there was not enough time to consider the amendments to the draft resolution. Therefore, it would be much better to defer consideration of the original text and the amendments to the next Standing Committee meeting.

### **4-Standing Committee on Political Affairs**

At today’s meeting the Standing Committee considered all 9 draft resolutions. Member parliaments presented their general remarks on their contents. Several delegations offered their amendments on some draft resolutions. Representative of the APA Secretariat requested the Participants to send their views/amendments to the Secretariat to be distributed and discussed during the next meeting of this Standing Committee. Deliberation on draft resolution on “Asian Parliaments’ Unwavering Support for the Palestinian people” and draft resolution on “Towards an Asian Parliament” were deferred to the next Standing Committee meeting. Consideration of the new draft resolution on “Enhancing Cooperation among the Members of the Asian Parliamentary

Assembly to Protect and Promote Multilateralism” were also postponed to the next meeting.

## **5- Working Group on Statutory Documents**

The First Session of the APA Working Group on Statutory Document was held on October 12-13, 2021, in Ürgüp-Nevşehir, Türkiye. The meeting was hosted and chaired by Grand National Assembly of Türkiye and parliamentary delegations from Bahrain, Iran, Kuwait, Palestine and Türkiye participated in the Meeting as members of the WG and delegations from Indonesia, Jordan, Pakistan and UAE were also present in their capacity as “interested countries”.

At the first meeting of the WG, procedure for consideration and adoption of the documents, amendments as well as the sequence of consideration of the APA Statutory Documents (the Charter, Rules of Procedure and Financial Regulations) were adopted. It was also decided that the WG adopts its decisions based on majority of votes.

In the course of two sessions of the WG, the participating delegations discussed the Draft Amended Text of the APA Charter. The progress made on the Text is reflected in the Attachment of the Final Report of the First Session of the Working Group on Statutory Documents.

**Madam Chairperson,  
Distinguished Delegate,  
Dear Colleagues,**

In conclusion, I would like to share with you the following important issues:

- **Nomination of APA President for 2024-2025 & Vice Presidents for 2023:**

As you are aware, it was expected that the 13th Plenary be held during the last two months of the year 2021 in Turkiye. However, and despite all the efforts made by the APA President and the Secretary General in the course of the Bureau Session in October 2021 in Ürgüp, Turkiye and afterwards, the 13<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session could not be convened due to absence of a new candidate for presidency.

As regards nomination of the vice -presidents, it is worth mentioning that in Ürgüp meeting, parliaments of Kuwait, UAE and Iran accepted the Vice-Presidency of the 13th Plenary and chairmanship of the three Standing Committees in 2022.

Today, I, in my capacity as Secretary General, once again, I strongly appeal to all the APA member parliaments to positively consider their candidature for the high position of APA Presidency for 2024-2025 and also for Vice- Presidency during the year 2023. I will be in close touch with all the interested countries and sincerely hope to be in a position to report to the 13<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session of tomorrow the latest promising development in this regard.

- **Request for APA Observer Status**

I would like to inform you that the League of Parliamentarians for Al-Quds has submitted a letter to APA President, applying for the APA Observer status, based on Rule 2 Para 3 of the APA Rules of Procedures. APA Secretariat has circulated this letter on 11-10-2022 to all member parliaments and requested them to make a decision on this issue. At today's meeting we are going to consider this agenda item for submission of the relevant report to the Plenary.

**Thank you very much for your kind attention**

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## Draft Resolution on Measures to Promote Cultural Diversity and Protect Cultural Heritage in Asia

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

**Recalling** APA Resolutions, APA/Res/2013/05; APA/Res/2010/05; APA/Res/2009/05; APA/Res/2008/17; and APA/Res/2007/02; on Protecting and Respecting Cultural Diversity in Asia;

**Also Recalling** the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, adopted by the UNESCO General Conference at the 31st session, held in Paris on November 2, 2001";

**Considering** the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, 1954, and its protocols and UNESCO 2005 Convention on Protection and Promotion of Diversity of Cultural Expression;

**Recognizing** the significant role of parliaments both in safeguarding their respective national cultural heritage and in harmonizing Asian approach in respect of cultural diversity;

**Emphasizing** that protection, conservation and management of the diverse Cultural and Natural heritage of Outstanding Universal Value in Asia declared under the Convention concerning *the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage*, 1972 is the responsibility of its member states and joint collaborative efforts, wherever necessary, may be made towards their safeguarding for posterity;

**Recalling** the UNESCO 1972 Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage; and UNESCO 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage;

**Reaffirming** that cultural heritage is a fundamental component of the cultural identity of a people and their social cohesion, and its disrespect, damage or destruction may have adverse consequences for human dignity and human rights;

**Recognizing** that tolerance is one of the fundamental values of humanity, which entails promotion of cultural diversity, culture of peace, and dialogue among civilizations;

**Also Recognizing** the increasing importance of culture, as an integral part of development plans of all nations in Asia and beyond;

**Promoting** greater understanding and respect among civilizations, cultures and religions by means of concrete projects in the priority areas of youth, education, and media, in collaboration with governments, international and regional organizations, in line with the outcome of the first World Cultural Forum, in Bali, Indonesia in November 2013 and document entitled “Bali Declaration on the Alliance of Civilizations”, held in Bali, Indonesia, in 29 and 30 August 2014;

**Taking note** of the UAE initiative to establish the Abrahamic Family House to serve as a focal point including the followers of the three divine religions. The House includes a mosque, a church, and a synagogue side by side. It also promotes understanding, introduces the notion of religions as a foundation for dialogue and tolerance among religions and cultures;

**Reiterating** that multicultural dynamism in Asia provides as an indispensable asset for making a strong Asian community based on mutual respect and recognition of all Asian cultures and civilizations;

**Acknowledging** that Cultural heritage has always been considered as an important resource for tourism and indispensable element for gaining knowledge about country’s history and culture many travel tours;

**Noting** that the exploitation of cultural heritage in tourism activities should not make any negative consequences on the local culture and environment;

**Also Noting** that globalization creates some opportunities for greater interaction among cultures and civilizations while bringing about challenges in preserving and celebrating the rich intellectual and cultural diversity in Asia;

**Realizing** that the establishment of the Asian Cultural Council (ACC) under the framework of the International Conference of the Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) shall serve as an important platform for culture of peace, sustainable development, human connectivity and innovation at the Siem Reap Declaration;

**Recalling** the 1970 UNESCO Convention on Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property to protect the cultural heritage in Asia;

**Considering** that the smuggling of cultural objects from Asia poses a threat to the richness of Asian cultural heritage and underlines the important role of parliaments to both raise public awareness about this challenge and to strengthen it, where necessary;

**Deploring** the unrepairable damage brought to cultural and religious heritage by terrorism and organized crimes, especially damages to all religious and historical sites and holy shrines by indiscriminate bombing and shelling in Syria, Iraq ,Afghanistan and Yemen;

**Condemning** Israeli attacks on Al-Aqsa mosque, the excavations and infringements on all Islamic and Christian holy sites in the 1961 occupied Palestinian territories and refuse Israel's<sup>1</sup> failure the Occupying Power to comply with UNESCO resolutions concerning the Old City of Jerusalem and its walls<sup>2</sup>;

**Expressing** grave concerns regarding theft, damage, or destruction to any place of worship of any religion, cultural, religious, or historical heritage in Asia;

*We therefore,*

1. **Determine** to encourage and promote further intercultural dialogue and inter-religious exchanges throughout Asia;
2. **Resolve** to appreciate and promote the benefits of diversity and good governance among Asian nations, and encourage values such as justice, human rights, non-discrimination, democracy and respect within and among communities and nations;
3. **Reject** all manifestations of discrimination that are based on racism, xenophobia and all other related forms of intolerance;
4. **Remain Committed** to the protection of the rights of all communities, where applicable, so as to ensure the fulfillment of community rights;
5. **Urge** relevant governmental agencies to further facilitate consular services as appropriate for citizens of Asian countries to allow for greater people-to-people interaction;
6. **Acknowledge** that illegal import, export and transfer of ownership of cultural property and artifacts are responsible for the impoverishment of the cultural identity of the countries of origin of such property;
7. **Decide** to remain cognizant of damages to religious holy places and historical sites by ISIS and other terrorist organizations in our home continent;
8. **Resolve** to cooperate to prevent illegal import, export or transfer of cultural property and artifacts among Asian countries and beyond;
9. **Urge** Member Parliaments to consider ratifying the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage and the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage;
10. **Call Upon** all Member Parliaments to promote tolerance and empathy among Asian nations with a view to diminish distrust, misunderstanding, and conflict among religious communities;

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<sup>1</sup> Iran registered its reservation on word "Israel"

<sup>2</sup> The Philippines registered its reservation on whole para

11. **Strongly Recommend** APA Member Parliaments to promote tourism in association with conservation and protection of cultural heritage;
12. **Reiterate** that during armed conflict, states should adopt measures to safeguard the cultural and natural heritage of a nation in conformity with international law and the principles and objectives of international agreements and UNESCO recommendations concerning the protection of such heritage during hostilities;
13. **Emphasize** on the illegality of any change brought about by the Israeli occupation in the Old City of Jerusalem and its surroundings, as it is included in the list of World Heritage in Danger, and rejecting any change in its historical, civilizational, religious and cultural character, in violation of international conventions, such as the Geneva and Hague Conventions, and the relevant UNESCO and UN Security Council resolutions, which considered all these measures null and void, and demanded their immediate halt, and allow the UNESCO mission to investigate the facts about the excavations and tunnels carried out by the occupation under the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque;
14. **Reiterate** that Member Parliaments should adopt measures to safeguard and restore the cultural and natural heritage of nations in conformity with International law and the principles of objectives of international agreements and UNESCO recommendations concerning the protection of such heritage during hostilities, including those caused by conflicts and violent extremism;
15. **Request** the APA Secretary General to uphold cooperation between APA and international and regional organizations such as UNESCO, United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), ISESCO, Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) and relevant Asian NGOs active in promoting cultural diversity and dialogue among civilizations;
16. **Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to support establishing an award to be presented annually to outstanding Asian artists; authors, poets, film makers, painters, etc. who best convey the APA's commitment to cultural diversity in Asia;
17. **Encourage** the parliamentarians to support their governments outreaching to civil society about the importance of cultural diversity in societies and developing strategic plans and projects to develop the cultural sector to promote dialogue among civilizations and cultures based on mutual respect, towards consolidating the concept of humanity and promote human rights, dignity, and identity;
18. **Stress** on the important role the private sector can play in promoting cultural diversity, encouraging the development of plans and mechanisms to create a space for dialogue between the private and public sectors to develop plans to manage, protect, and promote cultural diversity in Asia;
19. **Also stress** on the important role the parliamentarians can play in developing policies and legislation to promote the principles enshrined in the UNESCO



World Day for Cultural Diversity in their countries and to develop appropriate mechanisms for developing plans and regulatory frameworks to manage the cultural heritage sites, by identifying the cultural importance of these sites, maintaining their authenticity and preserving their value while respecting international laws for cultural diversity;

20. **Call upon** the APA Member's Parliaments to support the cultural diversity including respect to regional and national particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, as part of intangible asset and heritage of human culture.



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## Draft Resolution on Asian Integration through Information and Communication Technology

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

**Reaffirming** that right of access to information is an integral part of the fundamental right of freedom of expression, as recognized by Resolution 59 of the UN General Assembly adopted in 1946, as well as by Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966);

**Recalling** para.5 of Article 3 of the APA Charter;

**Also Recalling** WSIS<sup>3</sup> Outcomes of 2003, 2005 held under UN aegis to build a people centered, inclusive and development oriented information society and UN resolution 125 of the UN General Assembly adopted at its 70<sup>th</sup> session in 2016 on High level review of WSIS+10 on global ICTs development and measures to facilitate accomplishment of SDGs;

**Noting** APA Resolution, APA/ Res/ 2014/11, and APA/Res/2014/13;

**Underlining** that Asian integration can be achieved through further dialogue, interaction, and communication among Asian people, parliamentarians, government officials, academic and educational institutions, and media for the promotion of peace, liberty, equality, human rights, and welfare in Asia;

**Recognizing** the fact that today Asia encompasses the biggest market in the world, the highest number of population; the largest amount of foreign currency reserves; and dynamic economic growth; especially after the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic has revealed the negative impact of misleading and false news that impeded the efforts of the international community to confront the pandemic;

**Reaffirming** the deep-rooted ties of history, geography, economy, culture, and civilization that bind Asian peoples together and the common interests pointing to the need for further cooperation;

**Emphasizing** on the principle of flow of information, privacy protection within the domestically applicable legal frameworks and also equitable access to communication and access to new technologies at the national, regional and global levels;

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<sup>3</sup> World Summit on Information Society held under the aegis of UN and ITU in 2003 and 2005

**Deeply concerned** by the proliferation of fake and fabricated news, misinformation and disinformation resulting due to misuse of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) which generate sentiments, hostility and divisiveness among communities;

**Underlining** the transformational role of ICTs in daily life as an enabling factor in all areas of economy of national, regional, and global development;

**Stressing** the view that global networking provides opportunities for APA Member Parliaments to share experiences and engage in fruitful dialogue on significant issues in Asia and facilitates further cooperation and coordination, on the way of Asian integration process;

**Also underlining** that the Asian Virtual Parliament will pave the way for sharing information, harmonizing legislation and raising people's awareness about the activities of the legislative body and ensure a more profound feedback between society, power and individuals, and thus contribute to strengthening peace in Asia;

**Emphasizing** that, the role of parties, civil society, non- governmental organizations (NGOs) and other democratic structures in public sphere, provide opportunities in Asian countries for exchange of views, interactions and synergy to promote regional and global cooperation in order to reinforce the long term process for Asian Integration;

*We therefore,*

1. **Call upon** and emphasis APA Member Parliaments to volunteer for providing knowledge and know-how, technical assistance, financial support, human resources; and other forms of assistance in creating a "Virtual Asian Parliament" based on the report of APA Secretary General on the subject matter in order to enhance collaboration and interaction among parliaments and parliamentarians in Asia and as a prelude to establishing a model of Asian Parliament;
2. **Determine** the modern and traditional ways to help to complete a plan to promote, publicize and disseminate information amongst citizens within the APA region, including through the use of social media;
3. **Recognize** that information and communications technologies present new opportunities and challenges and that there is a pressing need to address the major impediments that developing countries face in accessing the new the new technologies, such as an appropriate enabling environment, sufficient resources, infrastructure, education, capacity, investment and connectivity;
4. **Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to support vocational and knowledge-based education in Asia in order to enhance people's life-skills and competitiveness in coping with the challenges of globalization;

5. **Urge** APA Member Parliaments to share best practices and exchange experiences with a view to inspiring a common approach toward Asian integration through holding special workshops and forums among Asian Member Parliaments;
6. **Also call upon** the UN, its specialized agencies, affiliated organizations, particularly ITU, the UN Specialized agency in ICTs, to support the Members of this Assembly through collaboration in improving access to ICTs and ICT-enabled services for the undeserved in the region in partnership with regional organizations in particular Asia Pacific Tele-community with an aim to bridge the digital divide and transfer of technologies and UNESCO, to support the Members of this Assembly to surmount the hurdles, identified by research centers, think tanks and intellectuals, hampering circulation of ideas through available means and for flow of communication and information subject to national legal frameworks;
7. **Exhort** APA Member Parliamentarians to collaborate and take necessary measures to promote the development of ICT infrastructure through enabling policies, capacity building, building confidence and security in the use of ICTs, inter alia;
8. **Request** APA Member Parliaments to promote parliamentary action to address the proliferation of fake and fabricated news, misinformation and disinformation caused by the misuse of ICTs and include initiatives to promote, information awareness, fact-checking collaboration and the establishment of complaint procedure mechanism, where necessary, without limiting the Asian Citizen's fundamental rights to know and freedom to access information as well as freedom of expression and assuming the responsibility of social media for their behavior in ICTs environment;
9. **Invite** the APA Secretary-General to seek possible technical and financial assistance from Member Parliaments and other institutions to facilitate the implementation of this resolution and prepare a report with comprehensive approach to accelerate the process of Asian Integration.



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## Draft Resolution on Collaboration on Health Equity in Asia

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

**Recalling** APA Resolutions, APA/Res/2013/07; APA/Res/2010/02; and APA/Res/2009/06;

**Also recalling** the report of the Secretary-General on Achieving Health Equity in Asia, SG/Rep/2011/02 Dated 22 August 2011, submitted to the meeting of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran on 13-14 September, 2011;

**Welcoming** the Report of the Secretary-General contained in SG/Rep/2014/02 dated 10 August, 2014;

**Underlining** the report of WHO Commission on Social Determinants of Health for addressing the impact of socio-economic inequalities on health at global, regional and national levels;

**Noting** Alma Ata Declaration adopted on 6-12 September 1978 which defined differences in health as a common concern of all countries and invited all to work on the fullest attainment of health for all and to reduce the gap between health status, and Astana Declaration adopted on 25-26 October 2018 reaffirming the commitments expressed in Alma Ata Declaration;

**Taking note** of difference of health equity status among countries in Asia;

**Welcoming** the Sustainable Development Goals adopted on 25 September 2015 and reaffirming its pivotal role in enhancement of the health equity;

**Also welcoming** the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the UN General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases, adopted on 19 September 2011, reaffirming the political will to effectively implement the commitments contained therein and referring to the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the UN General Assembly on the comprehensive review and assessment of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases;

**Recognizing** United Nation General Assembly resolution 66/288 on “The future we want”, which recognized health as a precondition for and an outcome and indicator of all three dimensions of sustainable development;

**Considering** the Rio Political Declaration on Social Determinants of Health endorsed by the Sixty-fifth World Health Assembly in resolution WHA65.8 in May 2012;

**Emphasizing** on United Nations General Assembly resolution 72/138 proclaiming 12 December as International Universal Health Coverage Day and calling upon APA Member Parliaments to benefit from this day to raise awareness and promote Universal Health Coverage in their policies;

**Also welcoming** the United Nations General Assembly high-level meeting on universal health coverage held on 23 September 2019 under the theme "Universal Health Coverage: Moving Together to Build a Healthier World" aimed at accelerating progress towards universal health coverage;

**Recognizing** that access to medicines is one of the fundamental elements in achieving progressively the full realization of the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health;

**Recalling** the importance of placing equity and human-centric policies in the core of health agenda and noting central role of enabling Universal Health Coverage to provide equitable access to quality health services without financial hardship and access to quality affordable medicine and medical technologies;

**Also recognizing** that health inequities arise from social determinants of health, that is, the societal conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age and gender that these determinants include experiences in their early years, education, economic status, employment and decent work, housing and environment, and effective systems of preventing and treating ill health;

**Emphasizing** the need to comprehensively combat social and health related problems emanating from illegal drugs, psychotropic, alcohol and tobacco products, and promote policies to prevent and control their use, abuse and addiction;

**Expressing** concern about the existing socio-economic inequalities and their impact on the poor and vulnerable population, as well as the remote geographical areas and underserved urban areas;

**Also expressing** concern on deteriorating health effects of wars and armed conflicts by hindering provision and quality of health service and causing deprivation from fundamental human rights prospective to health, due to the inequalities in access and utilization of qualified health services;

**Noting** that the Covid-19 pandemic has revealed serious shortcomings in preparedness for, timely and effective prevention and detection of, as well as response to potential health emergencies, including in the capacity and resilience of health systems, indicating the need to better prepare for future health emergencies;

**Acknowledging** the importance of developing, strengthening and maintaining the capacities to detect, access, notify and report events and the importance of timely notification of events that may constitute a public health emergency of international concern in accordance with relevant provisions of the International Health Regulations (2005), and acknowledging the critical role played by international cooperation and timely and transparent sharing of epidemiological and clinical data, biological samples, knowledge and information, including timely sharing of pathogen genetic sequence data alongside sharing the benefits arising from utilization of such resources, and in this context recalling the Convention on Biological Diversity and its objectives and principle and the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity;

**Emphasizing** the need to promote initiatives aimed at ensuring timely, affordable and equitable access to, as well as the distribution of diagnostics, therapeutics, medicines and vaccines, and essential health products and technologies, and their components, as well as equipment to combat COVID-19 pandemic and to support the achievement of universal health coverage including preventive measures and actions;

**Stressing** the view that global net-working provides opportunities for Member Parliaments to engage in fruitful dialogue and exchange of best practices on health equity;

**Reaffirming** the significant role of parliaments both in advocating and promoting national policies and legislative measures for achieving health equity;

**Emphasizing** that the equitable distribution of anti-Coronavirus vaccines, based on humanitarian and ethical standards, will bring global benefits necessary to save lives, and that keeping the vaccine for a limited number of countries will lead to the prolongation of the pandemic, the continuation of its moral, health and economic repercussions on all the world countries, and will lead to the failure of efforts to eradicate this pandemic;

**Having in mind** that access to basic health services and medicine is a universally accepted norm arising from fundamental elements of human rights;

**Bearing in mind** that the Covid-19 pandemic is a global challenge and public health problem, which affects the welfare of the humanity and disproportionately impacts on the most vulnerable people and regions across the globe;

**Taking into consideration** that the states are facing problems and challenges regarding the protection from, diagnosing and treatment of the Covid-19, and that the health system and hospitals in many countries are under pressure;

**Recognizing** that the global challenges caused by the Covid-19 pandemic can only be overcome by international solidarity and cooperation, particularly in the fields of anti-Covid-19 vaccine procurement, distribution and inoculation as well as enhancement the worldwide production capacity of the vaccine;

*We therefore,*

1. **Urge** the APA Member Parliaments to incorporate Social Determinants of Health (SDH) more intensively in other APA themes and activities;
2. **Urge** the APA Member Parliaments to strengthen collaboration with a view to formulating a coherent approach with regard to social determinants of health in Asia, especially education, housing, and employment;
3. **Invite** the APA Member Parliaments to promote health equity in Asia through sharing experiences and best practices on identifying vulnerability and inequity and actively advocate the inclusion of social determinants of health in national policies and programs;
4. **Invite** APA member Parliaments to develop a cross-sectoral collaboration for the advancement of health equity in Asia through comprehensive training and study exchanges on social determination of health among policy makers and related stake- holders;
5. **Urge** the APA Member Parliaments to adopt policies and measures to improve service provision, primary care and health financing system including social protection system as well as health insurance plans;
6. **Call on** for giving priority to humanitarian considerations over economic interests, adopting mechanisms to ensure equality in the equitable distribution of vaccines against the Coronavirus, and for companies producing vaccines to assume their social and humanitarian responsibilities towards low-income and poor countries, by adopting mechanisms that ensure accessibility to the vaccines to protect the most vulnerable citizens all over the world, in order to put an end to this pandemic;
7. **Call on** APA Member Parliaments to encourage their respective governments in order to establish networking among major governmental and non-governmental institutions dealing with health issues in Asia, and expand cooperation with academic institutions, non-governmental organizations, civil society groups, academia and the media with adequate safeguard in order to identify the main social determinants of health;
8. **Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to take action in their countries to increase health literacy and awareness;
9. **Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to persuade their respective governments to create and implement targeted policies, activities, and programs to ensure a success in the achievement of SDGs including universal health coverage with regard to health policies; and promoting access to quality, efficacious, safe and affordable medicines and medical technologies, as appropriate;



10. **Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to undertake measures to coordinate responses to epidemics and to support international efforts to prevent, mitigate and address the impacts of infectious diseases and epidemics in accordance with the goal of advancing the 2030 Agenda;
11. **Invite** APA Member Parliaments to encourage their respective governments for enhancing the role of digital technologies, connectivity and access in public health, medical care and health services;
12. **Call on** APA Member Parliaments to take necessary actions and to encourage their respective governments to ensure child nutrition needs and to tackle malnutrition with a focus on equity for a healthier generation;
13. **Determine** to accelerate the achievement of SDG 2030 health targets and to take active part on the discussion of 2030 development agenda by delivering Asian views in the international arena to drive the global agenda, as appropriate in the national context and priorities;
14. **Calls upon** APA Member Parliaments to take action in their countries and persuade governments and other stakeholders for timely and transparent sharing of epidemiological and clinical data, biological samples, knowledge and information, including timely sharing of pathogen genetic sequence data alongside sharing the benefits arising from utilization of such resources, and in this context recalling the Convention on Biological Diversity and its objectives and principle and the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity and its objective;
15. **Calls upon** APA Member Parliaments to persuade their governments to use all relevant measures during the pandemic, including supporting ongoing consideration in WTO on a Covid-19 vaccine Intellectual Property Rights waiver and the use of flexibilities of the TRIPS agreement and the Doha Declaration on TRIPS Agreement and Public Health;
16. **Encourage** the APA Member Parliaments to actively participate in the process of arriving at common objectives which could form the basis of national legislations promoting health equity in Asia, with due attention to equitable social protection policies for health care, long term disability, and protection during unemployment and old age, as appropriate in the national context and priorities;
17. **Support** the free and full access of all nations, especially the Asian nations, to all health capabilities and facilities in the event of a pandemic, including Covid-19, as a human right. In this regard, express grave concern over restrictive and punitive measures illegally imposed on our nations at bilateral and multilateral levels, with negative impact on the right of health, right of free and full access to health and medicine in time of current pandemics;

18. **Call upon** the international community to continue support and assist developing countries in Asia and avoid all politically motivated measures aimed at hampering their access in this regard;
19. **Urge** the APA Member Parliaments to adopt relevant legislations to support universal access of all population in Asia to basic health services and pharmaceutical products;
20. **Demand** Israel<sup>4</sup> - the occupying power - to fulfill its obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention to provide the Palestinians in the occupied territories since 1967 with anti-Coronavirus vaccines, because the ultimate responsibility for providing them with full health services is the Israeli occupation responsibility until the occupation is completely finished, and asking the Israeli occupation to ensure the freedom of mobilization of patients from Gaza Strip, which has been besieged for 14 years, and evacuate the patients for treatment outside Gaza Strip, while emphasizing the free access of all medical and health supplies;
21. **Request** APA Member Parliaments to inform the Secretary-General on the progress made on the implementation of this resolution in their respective countries in order to share them with all Member Parliaments;
22. **Call on** APA Member Parliament to reconsider the health legislation in force to ensure achieving the goal of universal health coverage for all, in addition to increase public allocations for health spending in the countries of the continent to internationally recognized rates, in a manner that enhances equal access to adequate and sustainable health services for all citizens of the continent, especially women, children and the poorest groups;
23. **Confirm** that the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly have the will to promote solidarity and cooperation in the fight against Covid-19 pandemic;
24. **Call for** the nations to take further steps especially regarding equitable access to the anti-Covid-19 vaccines and more effective international solidarity on sharing the existing anti-Covid-19 vaccines with the most vulnerable population;
25. **Exhort** the nations to share the information, experiences and data concerning the Covid-19 pandemic and measures taken as well as the developments on diagnostics, treatments and prevention, including the anti-Covid-19 vaccines;
26. **Invite** the nations to look into possibilities to participate in vaccine development studies carried out in the Member Countries of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly.

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<sup>4</sup> Iran registered its reservation on word " Israel".



## Draft Resolution on Asian Parliamentarians Against Corruption

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

**Recalling** APA Resolutions on Combating Corruption contained in APA/Res/2013/09, December 2013; APA/Res/2010/01; APA/Res/2009/03; APA/Res/2008/18; as well as the APA Plan of Action on Combating Corruption contained in APA/Res/2007/05/Annex;

**Welcoming** the adoption of resolution 8/14 – Promoting good practices in relation to the role of National Parliaments and other Legislative Bodies in preventing and combating corruption in all its forms – by the 8th Conference of States Parties to the UN Convention against Corruption held from 16 – 20 December 2019 in Abu Dhabi, UAE;

**Taking note** of the importance of the United Nations Convention against Corruption adopted by the General Assembly on October 31, 2003, other anti-corruption conventions and relevant binding legal instruments;

**Recognizing** that fighting corruption at all levels and in all its forms is a priority and that corruption is a serious barrier to effective resource mobilization and allocation and diverts resources away from activities that are vital for poverty eradication and sustainable development;

**Bearing in mind** that corruption is a transnational phenomenon and that prevention and eradication of corruption is the responsibility of all States and that they must cooperate with one another;

**Reaffirming** the importance of respect for human rights, the rule of law, good governance, and democracy in the fight against corruption;

**Recognizing** the important role of parliaments to promote transparency, participation, accountability and integrity as some of the principles of anti-corruption strategy;

**Acknowledging** that the fight against all forms of corruption requires comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach including anti-corruption frameworks and strong institutions at all levels;

**Expressing** concern about the laundering and transfer of stolen assets and proceeds of corruption, and stressing the need to address this concern in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption;

*We therefore,*

1. **Condemn** corruption at all levels and in all its forms, including bribery; money laundering; and abuse of power;
2. **Express** determination to prevent and combat corrupt practices in all forms and collaborate on facilitating asset recovery and returning such assets to their legitimate owners, in particular to countries of origin, in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption;
3. **Welcome** the significant number of Member States that have already ratified or acceded to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and in this regard urges all APA Member Parliaments that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the United Nations Convention against Corruption as a matter of priority, and urges all States Parties to the Convention to take appropriate measures ensuring its full and effective implementation;
4. **Resolve** to promote exchange of good practices and experiences regarding the role of Parliaments in preventing and countering corruption, including by raising awareness among public, reviewing and strengthening anti-corruption legislation, exercising parliamentary oversight, fostering a culture of transparency and accountability, promoting rule of law and strengthening institutions at national level;
5. **Recognize** the importance of strengthening Parliaments, role in combating corruption and promoting the exchange of good practices and national experience among Parliamentary Institutions as called for by the Resolution 8/14 adopted by the 8th Conference of States Parties to the UN Convention Against Corruption held from 16 – 20 December 2019 in Abu Dhabi, UAE;
6. **Invite** the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption to consider holding thematic discussion on strengthening the role of national parliaments in fighting corruption, including promoting the implementation of this Convention;
7. **Decide** to set up a working group under the auspices of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs to further consider the APA Plan of Action on Combating Corruption contained in APA/Res/2007/05/ Annex with a view to taking effective measures for enhancing synergy and interactions among Asian Parliamentarians in fighting corruption;
8. **Consider** to improve and expand working relations with important Asian organizations such as GOPAC ( Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption) Chapter in order to enhance synergy and areas for cooperation and joint initiatives;
9. **Urge** States Parties to United Nations Convention against Corruption that have not already done so to designate a central authority that shall have the

responsibility and power to receive requests for mutual legal assistance and either to execute them or to transmit them to the competent authorities for execution;

10. **Request** the Secretary-General to prepare in consultation with interested APA Delegations, particularly APA delegates with interest and experience in anti-corruption efforts, the required draft documents for consideration by the working group set up in this respect;
11. **Call on** member parliaments to empower civil society as an effective partner of parliaments and promote the role of the media in combating corruption in Asia;
12. **Also call on** member parliaments to encourage their governments to allocate a budget to support the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to promote the role of supreme audit institutions in preventing and combating corruption more effectively and strengthening cooperation between supervisory and anti-corruption bodies;
13. **Invite** member parliaments to encourage their governments to engage the private sector in developing criteria and procedures to protect against corruption;
14. **Urge** member parliaments to encourage their governments to provide and harness the full potential of employing education and technology in preventing and combating corruption to reduce the likelihood of the spread of corruption;
15. **Also invite** member parliaments to encourage their governments to implement strategies and policies aimed at combating corruption and to develop measures to combat impunity;
16. **Request** the APA Secretary-General to seek the views of Member Parliaments on implementation of this resolution.



## Draft Resolution on APA Women Parliamentarians

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

**Recalling** the APA Plenary Resolution (APA/Res/2010/06, 30 November, 2010) on the establishment of the Coordinating Meeting of APA Women Parliamentarians and the APA Resolution on Special Committee of APA Women Parliamentarians (APA/Res/2014/16) superseding the Coordinating Meeting of APA Women Parliamentarians, as well as other relevant resolutions;

**Being mindful** of the fact that despite all efforts made for the promotion of women's rights, gender inequality and injustice contrary to human dignity still persists between women and men both in the extent of power at decision-making and in mechanisms to promote the advancement of women;

**Being aware** of the importance of promoting the full and effective participation of women in scientific, social, political, cultural and economic affairs, and peace dialogue particularly in upcoming issues, including COVID- 19 pandemic response and recovery;

**Reaffirming** that inclusion of women in positions of power and elected bodies, and also their involvement in the decision making process, strengthens the development of democratic principles in public life and increases the sustainable development;

**Noting** that women face obstacles in entering Parliaments includes political, socio-economic and cultural environment;

**Acknowledging** the necessity to place on the agenda of APA meetings matters of importance to women such as eliminating violence against women, empowerment of women and their participation in political and economic life, and prevention of all kinds of harassments, sexual violence against women and girls, trafficking, and other types of exploitation including in situation of armed conflict particularly amid the humanitarian situations and emergencies;

**Considering** women's issues, including women's empowerment, eliminating violence and discrimination against them and involving women in political, economic and social aspects of life;

**Stressing** our resolve to participate and contribute actively in the deliberation of issues relating to women's empowerment and participation in APA meetings;

*Noting* that CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women) as well as the decisions of the Fourth World Conference on Women Beijing 1995, and its subsequent periodic follow-up conferences, being held every five years from Beijing +1 to Beijing + 5, have all developed a comprehensive framework for the protection and empowerment of women and girls, eliminating all forms of discrimination against them and ensuring that they obtain their legitimate rights for it states parties;

*Underlining* the need to facilitate networking between women parliamentarians of Asia to meet the challenges in women’s issues, including in humanitarian situation, amid the Covid-19 pandemic and in combating the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures;

*We express* our deep concern about the negative and unfortunate consequences of the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic that have affected women in general, and the breadwinners in particular; and call on states and governments to take this matter into consideration, and they embark on the process of developing pandemic response and recovery policies;

*We therefore,*

1. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to ensure the full and effective inclusion of women in social, cultural, economic, political, and sustainable development affairs in Asia, at national, regional, and international levels as appropriate;
2. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to adopt legislations to facilitate women’s representations in Asian Parliaments;
3. **Encourage** APA Women Parliamentarians 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;
4. **Recommend** the importance of information and awareness campaigns to promote the integration of women into political participation and decision – making with a view to facilitate reaching national and international parliamentary institutions;
5. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to recognize the concerns of women, and to effectively implement the relevant provisions of United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which promote gender equality and empowerment of women with respect for national and cultural particularities of the Member States;
6. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to recognize that gender equality and empowerment of women as a stand-alone goal with clear targets and indicators that must be achieved through implementation of goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with respect to national and cultural particularities of the Member States; with goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); with respect for national and cultural particularities of the Member States;

7. **Determine** to enhance the activities of the Coordinating Meeting of APA Women Parliamentarian through more effective exchange of views and close interaction;
8. **Request** the Special Committee of APA Women Parliamentarians to expand the scope of its activities under the auspices of Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs and to take appropriate measures to facilitate networking among women parliamentarians in Asia;
9. **Request** the APA Secretariat to assign one special part of the website of the Assembly to facilitate networking among women parliamentarians of Asia covering updated information on the activities of the APA Women Parliamentarians;
10. **Express** grave concern at the dire situation of millions of women in all war-torn and conflict-ridden areas such as Palestine, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Myanmar, and Afghanistan who are inevitably in danger of and impacted by mortality and morbidity of themselves and their family members particularly their children, violence, discrimination, insecurity, poverty, hunger and so forth;
11. **Express** support of APA Member Parliaments in advancing women, peace and security agenda, particularly by enhancing women's role peacebuilding activities.





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## Draft Resolution on Promoting Dialogue and Harmony among Followers of World Religions

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

**Noting** the role of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations in fostering the values of compassion, inclusion, and respect in working towards a more just peaceful, inclusive world, by promoting greater understanding, tolerance and respect among civilizations, cultures, religions and beliefs;

**Recalling** with appreciation various global, regional and sub-regional initiatives on mutual understanding and interfaith harmony including the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 65/5 (2010) , the International Conference on Environment, Peace and the Dialogue among Civilizations and Cultures (2005), the Asia- Europe Meeting Interfaith Dialogue on the theme "Building Interfaith Harmony within the International Community" (2005), the High Level Conference on International and Inter-Religious Dialogue (2014), and the seventh global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, (2016), the VI Congress of the Leaders of World and Traditional Religions,(2018), the "Human Fraternity Document for World Peace and Living Together" issued by Human Fraternity Meeting, (2019);

**Being mindful** of the fact that, Inter-Faith harmony among followers of different religions of the world in general and Asia, in particular, is of utmost importance for the survival and harmony of mankind and the promotion of the culture of peace, understanding, respect, security and tolerance;

**Recognizing** the essential role of dialogue among followers of different faiths and religions in enhancing mutual collaboration, harmony and cooperation among their followers;

**Expressing** the need to explore ways and means to intensify Inter-Faith Harmony and resultant cooperation to strengthen the international peace and security to make the world a better place to live;

**Acknowledging** that the moral imperatives of all religions, convictions and beliefs call for peace, tolerance and mutual understanding;

**Commending** the initiatives taken by the United Nations in support of dialogue among civilizations and citizens and followers of religions, foremost among which is the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations UNAOC;

*Also welcoming* the initiatives of some countries who promote dialogue among people of different religions, including the Center for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue (KAICID), which was established in 2012, and the Global Center for Peaceful Coexistence that was established in 2018 and the inauguration of the Chair for Interfaith Dialogue and Peaceful Coexistence at Sapienza University in Rome in 2018;

*We therefore,*

1. **Decide** to apply for Asian Parliamentary Assembly's membership to the Group of Friends of the UN Alliance of Civilizations as proposed by Turkey during the 11<sup>th</sup> General Assembly with a view to contribute the efforts of providing lasting solutions to the rising trends of discrimination, xenophobia, intolerance and extremism;
2. **Maintain** that a regular dialogue between the APA Member Parliaments become an effective supplement for addressing the challenges of ongoing international conflicts based on religious differences and discrepancies;
3. **Denounce** the hatred stereotyping of persons based on their ethnicity and religion condemning any activity that leads towards the division between the followers of different faiths;
4. **Underline** the importance of moderation in as a value within societies for countering violent extremism and for further contributing to the promotion of inter-faith and inter-culture dialogue, tolerance, understanding and cooperation and Encourage efforts, as appropriate, to enable voice of moderation to work together in order to build a more secure, inclusive and peaceful world;
5. **Declare** that extremism and terrorism can not be attributed or accredited to any religion or nationality as these are common enemies of all humanity;
6. **Consider** that any form of xenophobia based on religion, belief, faith or ethnic adherence is contrary to the merits of inter-faith dialogue and has no place in the community of civilized nations;
7. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to consider providing a respective national legal instrument, with the aim of creating a conducive atmosphere for inter-faith dialogue and cooperation as well as harmony among all religions;
8. **Deplore**, in the strongest terms, all atrocities and acts of violence, committed by extremist and terrorist groups under the guise of religions and call upon all states to refrain from providing any support to such terrorist groups;
9. **Condemn** the misuse and distortion of religious beliefs, by extremist groups and their followers, which inflame intra-faith as well as inter-faith hatred and hold them accountable for instigation of ill-judgment, violence, and brutality against people of other religions and faiths;

10. **Strongly condemn** any advocacy of hatred based on religion or belief which constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, whether it involves the use of print, audiovisual or electronic media or any other means;
11. **Call upon** the international community to be cognizant of humanitarian situations in Asia;
12. **Urge** all APA Member Parliaments to intensify their efforts for the development of international and regional frameworks to promote best practices which leads towards the inter faith harmony and collaboration;
13. **Invite** Member Parliaments to further promote reconciliation to help to ensure durable peace and sustained development, including by working with faith leaders and communities and through reconciliatory measures and acts of service and by encouraging forgiveness and compassion among individuals;
14. **Encourage** all member parliaments to pass laws and legislation to criminalize acts associated with defamation of religions and their sanctities, combat all forms of discrimination, and firmly renounce hate speech and Islamophobia;
15. **Emphasize** the importance of the concerted efforts of the international community in establishing specialized centers to combat extremist ideology and terrorism, in order to promote a culture of peace, security, and tolerance;
16. **Encourage** Asian countries to adhere to the principles and values set out in the Human Fraternity Document for World Peace and Living Together, reflecting the values of tolerance, moderation, and the rejection of racism;
17. **Encourage** Asian countries to develop a tolerance award to support the efforts in the fields of peace and tolerance;
18. **Request** the APA Secretary-General to seek the views as well as measures taken by APA Member Parliaments to implement this resolution and to report thereon to the next meeting of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs.



## Draft Resolution on Legal and Legislative Cooperation in Combating the Smuggling of Cultural Items in Asia

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

**Recalling** APA/Resolution/2013/05 of 9 December 2013 on Protecting and Respecting Cultural Diversity in Asia;

**Recalling** the relevant provisions where applicable on the protection of cultural heritage including the four Geneva Conventions (1949), the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (1954) and its related protocols, the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970), the *Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage* (1972), the New Delhi UNESCO Recommendation of 1956 concerning excavations undertaken in occupied territories, the inscription of the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls at the request of Jordan on the World Heritage List (1981) and on the List of World Heritage in Danger (1982) and related recommendations, resolutions and decisions of UNESCO, (UNESCO, the World Heritage Committee, Decision: 42 COM 7A.21, Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls (site proposed by Jordan, C 148 rev);

**Underlining** the obligation for all States Parties to urgently implement the provisions in paragraphs 15 to 17 of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2199 (2015), in reference to the cultural heritage at risk in Iraq and Syria;

**Taking into account** the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2347 (2017) which aims at mainstreaming the protection of cultural heritage at the global level;

**Recalling** the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict of 14 May 1954 and its Protocols of 14 May 1954 and 26 March 1999, and the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property of 14 November 1970;

**Recalling** the United Nations General Assembly resolution 66/180 of 19 December 2011 on “Strengthening Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Responses to Protect Cultural Property, especially with regard to its Trafficking”, in which the Assembly urged Member States and relevant institutions, as appropriate, to reinforce and fully implement mechanisms to strengthen international cooperation, including mutual legal assistance, in order to combat all forms and aspects of trafficking in cultural property and related offences, such as the theft, looting, damage, removal, pillage and destruction of cultural property, and to facilitate the

recovery and return of stolen and looted cultural property, and recalling also General Assembly resolutions 68/186 of 18 December 2013 on strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to protect cultural property, especially with regard to its trafficking 69/196 of 18 December 2014, entitled “International Guidelines for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Responses with Respect to Trafficking in Cultural Property and Other Related Offences ,” and 70/76 of 9 December 2015 on return or restitution of cultural property to the countries of origin;

**Welcoming** the important and active role that the UN and its relevant agencies play in countering money laundering and terrorist financing linked to trade in smuggled artifacts, in particular, in Asia;

**Expressing** deep concern about the growing problem of smuggling of cultural items in Asia;

**Affirming** the important role of parliaments prevailing upon the governments to develop a national strategy including a legal framework to combat smuggling of cultural items;

**Considering** the smuggling of cultural property from Asia a threat to the richness of Asian cultural heritage;

**Recognizing** the role of parliaments to enhance public awareness about the threat to national identity and heritage of states from which cultural items are smuggled abroad;

**Recognizing** also the need to enhance national capacities, including parliamentary capacity to reinforce national strategy to combat smuggling of cultural items; *We therefore,*

1. **Urge** all APA Member Parliaments to utilize their legislative role to prevent and punish the smuggling of cultural objects in Asia and facilitate concerted efforts to return the stolen items back to their original locations without any cost to the original owner country;
2. **Call on** all APA member parliaments that have not yet done so to consider ratifying the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (1954), UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970), UNESCO Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972), UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage-2001 and the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003);
3. **Request** all APA Member Parliaments to strengthen their national legislation on protecting cultural properties and combatting all forms of smuggling in cultural property and related offences to be enacted on the basis of the common principles prepared by APA Secretariat and annexed to this resolution, and in accordance with their own internal legislative procedures;

4. **Recommend** the formation of a separate Corps Unit from APA Member Parliaments to protect and safeguard historical cultural properties from the perils of unlawful excavations, theft and smuggling;
5. **Express** support for the further strengthening of the system of management to protect movable cultural heritage from theft and smuggling of cultural properties;
6. **Urge** APA member parliament and national government to work more closely in the development of legislations and implementation of laws aiming at the combat of cross-border illicit trade and smuggling of cultural artifacts and other cultural assets, while also ensuring mutual support and assistance by law-enforcement bodies in the combat operations;
7. **Request** the Secretary General to provide assistance to APA Member States who are in need of revising their legislation. A separate Corps Unit should be formed from Group of all APA Member Parliaments to protect and safeguard historical cultural properties from the perils of clandestine excavation, theft and smuggling;
8. **Urge** all Member Parliaments to exercise efforts to jointly register their shared tangible and intangible cultural heritages at UNESCO's relevant list.



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## Draft Resolution on Effective Cooperation in Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking in Asia

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

**Recalling** the report of the Standing Committee meeting on Social and Cultural Affairs held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, on 13-14 September 2011;

**Mindful** of the fact that illicit drug trafficking and its negative impact on health, safety, public order, governance, economic development and social health constitutes a prime concern in Asia and deserves a comprehensive consideration by the APA;

**Stressing** the need to continue to take concentrated measures within the framework of the Paris Pact in order to strengthen cross-border cooperation and information exchanged with a view to countering illicit cultivation of narcotic crops, production and trafficking of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursor chemical substances in Asia;

**Emphasizing** that the danger of illicit drug trafficking is pervasive so there is an urgent need to mobilize efforts of all countries to curb the production of opium and heroin in the Asian continent and to dismantle networks of illicit drug trafficking from all over Asia;

**Acknowledging** that the States most affected by the transit of drugs, especially the developing countries among them, have made important contributions to and sacrifices in countering illicit drug trafficking and preventing illicitly trafficked substances from region and markets;

**Emphasizing** afresh the continuing need to provide concrete, sufficient and sustainable technical and capacity-building support to the States most affected by the transit of drugs, especially the developing countries among them, in their efforts to curb illicit drug trafficking and deal with associated challenges;

**Recognizing** that production and illicit trafficking of narcotics drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursor chemicals can be utilized for financing of other organized crimes, including terrorism;

**Expressing** the need to explore ways and means to intensify regional coordination among legislators to combat drug trafficking and make anti-drug policies a priority in programs of co-operation with, and of assistance to, the Asian countries which are affected by illicit drug trafficking;

**Recognizing** the interconnected challenges facing Asian countries, including continued illegal cultivation, production and trafficking of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursor chemicals that pose a serious threat to the region;

**Expressing** the need to increase international and regional support for the capacity building of law-enforcement agencies in the areas most affected by the illicit cultivation of narcotic crops, production and trafficking of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursor chemicals in Asia, and to intensify training programs for their law-enforcement staff;

**Further recognizing** the importance of “Alternative Development” program as an approach to reducing the cultivation of plants containing drug substances through rural development measures that has been strongly endorsed by UN Commission on Narcotic Drug;

**Stressing** the need to enhance joint co-operation with the relevant law-enforcement agencies of APA Member Parliaments focusing on clandestine heroin-producing laboratories and organized criminal groups involved in the illicit drugs trade, emphasizing the urgent need to increase efforts by the relevant UN Stakeholders aimed at integrated rural development, building infrastructure and supporting farmers engaged in alternative production;

**Recognizing** the need for more cooperation and intelligence sharing with a result-oriented approach between the law enforcement agencies of the Member States in and including customs and border authorities in order to better tackle smuggling of narcotics and psychotropic substances and their precursor chemicals within the region and beyond;

**Supporting** regional and international efforts to improve law enforcement in combating the production and trafficking of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursor chemicals and curtailing drug related financial activities;

**Emphasizing** the need to assist countries most affected by or at risk of the illicit cultivation of narcotic crops in developing its economy and diversifying agriculture so as to reduce people’s dependence on revenues from the illicit cultivation of narcotic crops and trafficking, of narcotic drugs, taking into account the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development and in line with national legislation;

**Reaffirming** that Alternative Development is crucial, lawful, viable and sustainable alternative to the illicit cultivation of narcotic crops, that it is an effective measure and one of the key components of policies and programs to counter illicit drug production and other drug-related crime challenges, and stressing that the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development will contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

**Stressing** the need to share best practices and take adequate measures in preventing, treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts;



**Expressing** the need for more active and efficient international cooperation in combating illicit drug trafficking in Asia;

**Attaching great importance to** the efforts made by international and regional organizations including the United Nations (UN), office of drugs and crimes (UNODC) and the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) to combat the threats of terrorism, illicit drug trafficking, transnational organized crime and legalization of income derived from criminal activity;

*We therefore,*

1. **Call upon** Asian Parliaments to coordinate among themselves to review relevant legislation to address different aspects of combating illicit drug trafficking by harmonizing laws and making minimum punishment stronger;
2. **Call upon** Asian Parliaments to adopt laws on extradition of convicted persons on terrorism and illicit drug trafficking to their countries of origin for fair trial based on national legislations;
3. **Stress** the need to exchange information and best practices within APA Member Parliaments on combating illicit drug trafficking;
4. **Remain vigilant** to the new modus operandi through the digital world and also the availability of the new substances of drug which are not yet listed in the respective national illicit drug lists and call for strong cooperation between APA Member Countries on these issues;
5. **Reiterate** the need to coordinate and improve law enforcement activities to combat the production and trafficking of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursor chemicals and curtailing the flow of illicit drug more effectively;
6. **Encourage** the APA Member Parliaments to consider adopting relevant legislation regulations to strengthen international cooperation to support comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs, as an essential elements of successful crop control strategies, especially in areas affected by or at risk of the illicit cultivation of crops, taking into account the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development and Member Parliaments with extensive relevant expertise to continue to share best practices, upon request;
7. **Underline** the importance of effectively using international financial assistance for the creation of alternative economic opportunities in order to ensure a sustainable anti-drug policy;
8. **Call upon** APA Asian Parliaments to enable civil society as an effective partner of parliaments and to enhance the role of mass media in combating drug trafficking in Asia;

9. **Encourage** all APA Member Parliaments to support their respective governments in order to coordinate with international and regional organizations including the United Nations (UN) to combat the threats of terrorism, illicit drug trafficking, transnational organized crime and legalization of income derived from criminal activities;
10. **Urge** that a regular dialogue on supporting joint actions of Asian governments against abovementioned threats within APA could become an effective supplement for addressing the challenges of international illicit drug trafficking and transnational organized crime in the region;
11. **Express** our commitment to encourage and enhance cooperation with all relevant states and international and regional organizations, on matters of common interest in the spirit of this resolution on rendering assistance to combat illicit drug trafficking;
12. **Encourage** networking of the relevant national agencies or organizations in Asia dealing with transnational crimes to further enhance information dissemination and intelligence exchange;
13. **Request** the APA Secretary General to seek the views of all Member Parliaments on ways and means for effective implementation of this resolution.



## Draft Resolution on Humanitarian Aid to Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Gaza and Myanmar on the Verge of the Humanitarian Catastrophe

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

**Welcoming** the establishment of ceasefire regime in SAR ON 30 December 2016 and the Memorandum on the de-escalating zones in the SAR, signed in Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan, on 4 May 2017;

**Recalling** UN Security Council resolutions 2139 and 2165;

**Appreciating** the renewal of UN Security Council Resolution 2165 on 13 December 2018 and the ability to enable cross border assistance in Syria;

**Being** concerned about the ongoing humanitarian catastrophe in Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Gaza and Myanmar and about deprivations inflicted upon the internally displaced persons and refugees or any other affected in those countries;

**Welcoming** the achievements of the Astana format since January 2017, in particular, the progress made in reducing violence across the Syrian Arab Republic and contributing to peace, security and stability in the country;

**Reaffirming** their determination to continue joint efforts aimed at protecting civilians and improving their humanitarian situation via facilitating rapid, safe and unhindered humanitarian access to the nations of Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Myanmar;

**Acknowledging** that the international organizations, including parliamentary ones and NGOs and individual countries shall support delivery of humanitarian aid to civilians trapped in a humanitarian crisis across the globe;

**Welcoming** all measures taken by APA Members Parliaments' governments to assist Syrian, Iraqi, Yemeni and Myanmar displaced persons and<sup>5</sup> refugees including, inter alia, through providing them with humanitarian aids, safe border crossing and temporary settlement;

**Welcoming** APA countries who have announced opening their international borders to refugees;

*We therefore,*

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<sup>5</sup> Delegation of Turkey expressed reservation on "displaced persons and" in this paragraph.

1. **Deliver** humanitarian support to Syrian, Iraqi, Yemeni and Myanmar civilians across conflict lines and border crossings both multilaterally and bilaterally in accordance with UN General Assembly Resolution 46/182;
2. **Support** efforts of countries that host refugees and provide humanitarian aid and recommend to take every effort to facilitate aid delivery in Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Gaza and Myanmar;
3. **Encourage** all relevant parties to further allow UN humanitarian agencies and their partners to utilize routes across conflict lines and border crossings in Syria in accordance with UN General Assembly resolution 46/182 and UN Security Council resolutions 2139 and 2165;
4. **Provide** assistance to Iraqi, Syrian, Yemeni, Gaza and Myanmar internally displaced persons and refugees, deprived of basic needs and desperate in search of shelter;
5. **Stress** that humanitarian aid delivery in Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Gaza and Myanmar should be carried on in accordance with International Law and National Legislations of these States and condemn any attempt to violate those laws;
6. **Assist** in creating conditions for the safe and voluntary return as well as their unconditional repatriation of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) to their original places of residence in Syria and Iraq, Myanmar and Yemen;
7. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to closely monitor the safe, voluntary and unconditional repatriation of refugees and internally displaced persons in order to ensure the sustainability of the process and the safety of the refugees.



## Draft Resolution on Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers in Asia

Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly representing signatory states who are parties to the relevant international conventions and agreements;

**Acknowledging** that the development of migrant workers and the protection of their rights are in line with the principles of human rights and contribute to the development and promotion of friendly relations among countries;

**Recalling** the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other relevant international instruments to which the States members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly are parties;

**Noting** that the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, the International Labor Organization (ILO) Convention 97 concerning Migration for Employment, ILO Convention 143 concerning Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provision), established a broad legal framework for the protection of migrant workers if applicable;

**Taking note of** the importance of the 2016 New York Declaration on Refugee and Migrants and ASEAN Consensus on the Protection and the Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers<sup>6</sup>;

**Acknowledging** the significance of ILO Conventions concerning the protection of the rights of migrant workers as well as United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and Protocols Thereto 'Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children' and 'Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air in promoting human rights of Asian migrant workers without prejudice to their sex, race, language, religion, nationality, or ethnic origin;

**Noting** the adoption of ILO Convention Concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers at the 100th International Labor Organization (ILO) Conference in Geneva, 2011 as a global recognition of the rights of domestic workers where many of them are migrants;

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<sup>6</sup> Adopted with reservations from Thailand.

***Underlining*** the importance of establishing a national legal framework as well as a broad legal framework for the protection of the rights of migrant workers and noting the legal and illegal status of different cases;

***Deeply concerned*** with the precarious conditions faced by migrant workers such as violating of their human rights including through harassment and violence, discrimination, low pay and low status jobs, unpaid jobs, and overwork;

***Underlining*** the challenges that women migrant workers are facing such as forced confinement, low pay, non-payment, excessive working hours, physically strenuous activities and sexual harassment and abuse, human trafficking and migrant smuggling, and prostitution;

***Recognizing*** that unsettled status of immigrants prevents the establishment of conditions for full scale and comprehensive protection of their right by governments of the countries of destination or transit;

***Emphasizing*** that adaptation of labor immigrants to local conditions and working activity in destination states as well as integration into recipient society are important factors which contribute to effective exercise of the rights of labor immigrants;

***Acknowledging*** the contribution of migrant workers to the society and economy of both receiving and sending states and their input to the development and prosperity of the region;

***Bearing in mind*** the importance of friendly relationships and cooperation among governments, parliaments and the peoples of Asia in solving the problems relating to Asian migrant workers; and in particular, providing repatriation assistance services such as coordination with families, airport assistance, domestic transport, temporary shelter, medical and rehabilitation services;

***Recognizing*** the significant role of parliaments both in strengthening social and human rights policies, and in harmonizing an Asian approach on protecting the rights of migrant workers in Asia;

***Confirming*** that providing adequate measures on the protection and promotion of the rights of migrant workers in Asia is part of a shared responsibility among Asian Countries toward a common vision for security and prosperity, which focused on the improvement of the quality of life of its people;

***Concerned*** with the exodus of people who have tried to flee from their homelands in Asia to some European countries, due to lack or deficiency of security, food, health service, accommodation, employment and so forth; many of whom are young migrant workers;

***Noting*** with great concern that ethnic and other forms of intolerance are the major causes of forced migration;

*We therefore,*

1. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to consider accession to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families to stress Asian commitment on the protection of the rights of migrant workers and humanitarian issues in Asia;
2. **Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to enhance and harmonize their actions towards a better protection of migrant workers' rights, especially the cases of women and children;
3. **Also Call Upon** APA Member Parliaments to urge their respective Government to integrate visions, principles, objectives and commitments enshrined under the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration adopted at the UN Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration held in Morocco, December 2018 into their migrant-related national policies;
4. **Request** APA sending countries to provide migrant workers with adequate skills and knowledge in order to be able to fulfill their task and understand the culture, prevailing laws and regulation in the receiving countries;
5. **Emphasizing** that Urge the APA Member States should to facilitate vocational training for migrant labor forces so that those migrant workers can integrate into the receiving country, ensuring their life and contributing to socio-economic development, stability and security in every country;
6. **Urge** APA Member Parliaments to ensure that, in case of violation of domestic laws, such laws should be applied in a fair and just manner to both migrant workers and citizens;
7. **Encourage** the promotion of bilateral and regional cooperation among countries in all areas and issues of migrant workers to maximize the potential benefits and minimize the negative impacts of migration;
8. **Encourage** the respective States of the APA Member Parliaments to consider bilateral, or regional agreements including Mandatory Consular Notification Agreement under the spirit of Vienna Convention on Consular Relations; whereby the sending countries are well informed on the legal problems faced by their migrant workers;
9. **Emphasize** the importance of involving United Nations system, international organizations, civil society, and non-government organizations, and increasing participation and interaction with all stakeholders to enable government to develop better policies and supervise the implementation of regulations on migrant workers issues;

10. **Recommend** APA Member Parliaments to provide adequate information on regulation, legislation and policies related to migrant workers in their respective countries, and to share information and best practices as well as opportunities and challenges encountered by Asian countries in relation to the protection and promotion of migrant workers' rights and welfare;
11. **Urge** the APA relevant member countries to promote fair and proper working conditions, proper minimum wages, and adequate access to decent living conditions and health for migrant workers;
12. **Request** the Secretary-General to coordinate with APA Member Parliaments on the progress to implement this resolution and submit a report thereon to the meeting of the Standing committee on Social and Cultural Affairs.





## Draft Resolution on the Promotion of Quality Child and Youth Development for Sustainable Society in Asia

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

**Recalling** UN General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, during which the General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and recognized children and youth as critical agents of change;

**Recognizing** the role of parliaments in promoting the human rights and empowerment of children and youth in Asia;

**Stressing** the commitment of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goals 4, 5, 8, 16, based on national rules and cultural backgrounds, as the basis for building sustainable, peaceful and inclusive societies in Asia;

**Recognizing** that the cooperation between APA Member Parliaments can be instrumental in promoting quality child and youth development in the region;

**Reaffirming** that the general principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, including the best interests of the child, non-discrimination, participation and survival and development, provide the international legal framework for actions concerning children; to ensure children are protected in their rights, based on national rules and cultural background;

**Reaffirming** the World Program of Action on Youth including the best interests of the youth, non-discrimination, participation, survival and development and provide framework of actions concerning youth; to ensure youth are protected in their rights;

*We therefore,*

1. **Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to recognize the importance of the quality child and youth development and to consider, with participation of children and youth, the provision of comprehensive social welfare, including access to health care, nutrition, quality education, training for skill development and other essential services to empower children and youth as healthy, responsible and productive members of society;
2. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to take appropriate measures to enhance cooperation among Member Parliaments to promote quality child and youth development, care and assistance, as well as to protect all children and

youth from all forms of violence, abuse, radicalization, exploitation and discrimination;

3. **Also encourage** APA Member Parliaments to strengthen and, where necessary, enact or reform legislations to ensure that all children and youth are protected against all forms of violence, as well as to improve child and youth development schemes;
4. **Request** the APA Secretary-General to submit, in collaboration with APA Member Parliaments, a report to the meeting of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs Parliaments on the implementation of this resolution.



## Draft Resolution on Ageing Society in Asia

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

**Recalling** its resolution 2017/12 Resolution on The Role of APA Parliaments in Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and resolution 2017/17 on Collaboration on Health Equity in Asia;

**Recalling** UN General Assembly resolution 57/167 of 18 December 2002, in which it endorsed the Political Declaration and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, and subsequent resolutions No. 59/150 of 01 February 2005 on the Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing;

**Welcoming** UN General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, in which the General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and stressing the need to ensure that issues of relevance to older persons are taken into account in its implementation in order to ensure that no one is left behind, including older persons;

**Recognizing** that the ageing population in many countries in Asia is rapidly growing whereas the fertility rates in those respective countries are significantly declining;

**Acknowledging** that the older persons in Asia are expected to account for over 17 percent by 2030, due to higher life expectancy;

**Being concerned** that misconception and prejudice remains a challenge to opportunity for and engagement of older persons in productive employment in some countries, taking into account the unique culture of respect towards older persons in Asia;

**Being mindful** that public adaptation and preparedness through a life-course, multifaceted approach are keys to help society effectively respond to the burdens as commonly regarded in aged society;

**Acknowledging** that older persons have made significant contribution to national social and economic gains and, therefore, enactment of effective legislation should be encouraged to remove barriers in realizing full potential of older persons;

*We therefore,*

1. **Calls upon** APA Member Parliaments to consider developing and adopting legislations on social protection, health-care services, and employment

opportunities for older persons, as well as exploring innovative legislations such as phased-retirement, job sharing and part-time works;

2. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to monitor the implementation of their respective governments' ageing policies and to accord priority to the availability of evidence-based, accurate, reliable and up-to-date data and information in order to ensure effective, efficient and sustainable implementation;
3. **Urge** APA Member Parliaments to exercise their constituent authority to maximize opportunities for older persons, including through promoting flexible work and alternative employability arrangements, as appropriate;
4. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to work with their relevant constituencies and community-based mechanisms to promote an enabling volunteer environment for older persons, taking into account different social contexts and norms;
5. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to develop legislation and policies to promote an enabling environment to the lives of older persons and to proactively provide services to them and improve the quality of such services, particularly health services;
6. **Stress** the importance of promoting and supporting international efforts, particularly the efforts exerted by the United Nations, as the UN launched a set of goals that include raising awareness of the health needs of the older persons and their contributions to the communities in which they live, and a better understanding of Covid19 pandemic's impact on them in order to achieve the 2030 sustainable development objectives;
7. **Call on** member parliaments to encourage their governments to continuously launch programs, initiatives, and events in social development centers in Asian countries in cooperation with the government and national institutions to raise awareness among all segments of society about the needs of the older persons, on the one hand, motivate the older persons and consolidate their role on the other hand. This, in turn, shall actuate all aspects of the active lives of older persons, and ensure their active and continuous participation in their communities.



## Draft Resolution on Human Development in Asia

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

**Recalling** our commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals for the years 2015-2030, which includes poverty eradication and focuses on providing good health, welfare, gender equality, appropriate education and work, and economic growth; Especially in view of the need to contain the repercussions of the Covid-19 pandemic outbreak on these areas in the countries of the continent; and the need for response and recovery policies from the pandemic to include a guarantee that reverses the negative impact of the pandemic on it; and the return of the sustainable development process to the right track;

**Reaffirming** on APA Goals to harness cooperation to use enormous human and natural resources, and to ensure the interests of all member states;

**Reminding** parliament members of APA to take collective procedures for supporting governments and other active parties in the region, and to promote the exchange of opinions and expertise with parliaments from other regions, in the context of poverty eradication and promoting equality;

**Recognizing** that human development is an extensive and accumulative process that, bears not only financial and economic aspects, but also covers social, cultural, health, natural environment and political domains, with an ultimate goal of human prosperity;

**Taking into consideration** acts related to the UN Development Program (UNDP) particularly the Human Development Report 2020: The next frontier: Human Development and Anthropocene;

**Emphasizing** that the human element is the basis of renaissance and material development in different societies;

**Emphasizing** the fundamental role of parliaments through the enactment of legislation, budget adoption, and their role in ensuring human development;

**Affirming** on the need to train Asian manpower and human resources to realize one of the most important feature of economic globalization by enhancing their competitive capabilities in the world market while utilizing the dynamics of globalization in which the balance of economic power keeps changing;

*We therefore,*

1. **Suggest** creating a technical and professional training center under the umbrella of the APA to provide joint efforts to push sustainable development goals forward;
2. **Encourage** setting a unified criterion for national capacity building;
3. **Promote** coordination based on professional standards that are set by professionals in the job market;
4. **Urge** developed countries and also regional United Nation office in Asia to support the proposed training center project and encourage their parliaments to take steps towards the realization of this goal in compliance with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals;
5. **Call on** APA Member Parliaments to increase the budgetary allocations for education, health, and housing for their direct impact on developing human capital, offer adequate opportunities for the human element for creativity, innovation, and active participation in looking ahead;
6. **Also call on** APA Member Parliaments to create strategic partnerships and work closely with governments and public institutions on issues related to promoting human development.



## Draft Resolution on Tourism Cooperation in Asia

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

**Being cognizant** of the economic significance of the tourism and travel sectors as well as their roles in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular in the protection of cultural and natural heritage and contribution to enhanced mutual understanding and better relations among peoples as a platform for peace and stability;

**Recalling** our commitment to the resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 25 September 2015, titled “Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” (A/RES/70/1), which exhorts to develop and implement policies to promote more resilient, inclusive and sustainable tourism sector, and acknowledges the role of tourism in creating jobs and promoting local culture and products as well as preserving them for the future generations;

**Taking into account** the recommendations and guidelines set forth by the United Nations World Tourism Organization for actions to be taken to mitigate the adverse impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on tourism and for recovery plans and programs for tourism;

**Recognizing** the potential of multilateral regional frameworks such as the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD), an Asia wide forum which declared “culture and tourism” as well as “education and human resource development” as two out of its six priority areas of cooperation;

**Considering** the deep-rooted, comprehensive and ever-growing relations between the Asian Parliamentary Assembly Member States, including in trade, tourism and travel as well as the need to make best use of this potential;

**Recognizing** the significant role of parliaments in promoting tourism industry, which employs and provides livelihoods to high number of people in the Member Countries;

**Further acknowledging** the short and long-term economic and social impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the need for a speedy and safe recovery in all sectors following the overall guidance of relevant international organizations and initiatives;

**Noting** that COVID-19 pandemic had severe negative impacts on tourism industry worldwide and compelled countries to introduce safe travel measures that need to be standardized and institutionalized for future similar pandemics;

***Emphasizing*** the need to consider tourism and travel sectors, which are among the hardest-hit sectors by the pandemic, as a vital pillar of recovery efforts;

***Referring*** to the importance of increasing bilateral, regional and international cooperation for the purpose of mitigating the adverse impacts of the pandemic on tourism and travel sectors.





## Draft Resolution on Sustainable Tourism Cooperation in Asia

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

**Recalling** its resolution 2017/12 Resolution on The Role of APA Parliaments in Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals;

**Re-emphasizing** cultural diversity and protection of cultural heritage in Asia;

**Highlighting** promotion of inter-faith dialogue and harmony among World Religions;

**Recalling** UN General Assembly resolution A/RES/75/229 on Promotion of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, for poverty eradication and environment protection;

**Stressing** that poverty is a multifaceted problem that requires a multifaceted and integrated approach in addressing its economic, political, social, environmental and institutional dimensions at all levels;

**Recognizing** that sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, health tourism, cultural tourism, pilgrimage tourism is a cross-cutting activity that effectively contribute to the three dimensions of sustainable development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, including by fostering economic growth, alleviating poverty, creating full and productive employment and decent work for all, accelerating the change to more sustainable consumption and production patterns and promoting the sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources, promoting local culture, improving the quality of life and the economic empowerment of young people and development of better living conditions for rural populations;

**Noting** the initiatives launched and the events organized at the sub regional, regional and international levels in the field of sustainable tourism;

**Acknowledging** the contribution of tourism industry to the economic development of the societies and as a tool for promoting understanding, peace and prosperity among nations;

**Underlining** the vast potential of the our region in the field of tourism and its ability to increase the region's share in global tourism and calling upon the need for protection and conservation of its natural and cultural heritage and safeguarding cultural richness, natural beauty, social values as well as local communities and traditions of the indigenous peoples;

*Have decided to,*

1. **Establish** our region as a peaceful and green tourism destination with diverse products and high quality services while ensuring responsible and sustainable tourism development and upgrading quality of life of the people through effective involvement of all stake holders throughout the process;
2. **Promote** Inter- regional tourism cooperation through regional integration organizations particularly ASEAN, ECO and other existing platforms;
3. **Support** regional tourism exchanges particularly for persons engaged in the tourism industry;
4. **Promote** Silk Road tourism through arranging events and festivals and in cooperation with the international community and relevant organizations will be revived;
5. **Facilitate** Visa procedures for the citizens of the Region;
6. **Strengthen** and diversify tourism health/medical, culture, winter, sea, mountain desert, religious and other niche areas/domains;
7. **Support** utilization of electronic media, human resource development and capacity building activities;
8. **Devise** and promote green tourism strategy in collaboration with international tourism bodies;
9. **Encourage** private sector and local community involvement in the tourism activities will be strengthened;
10. **Selecting** the city of Zanjan, Islamic Republic of Iran as **Asia Tourism Capital** for the years 2023 as well as the cities of ----- for the years 2024 and 2025 respectively;
11. **Requests** the Secretariat to submit to the next meeting of...,a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including recommendations on ways and means to promote sustainable tourism in Asia, in a balanced and integrated manner.

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

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*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.



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

*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, 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 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 and that regional cooperation which have already existed in Asia could serve as a platform for enhancing cooperation among sub regional 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, violence and political instability act as inhibitors for economic development and that maintaining regional collaboration on political stability is crucial;

**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 opportunities to achieve a comprehensive economic development on human and financial levels 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.

**Also Emphasizing** on the role of the private sector by 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 Asian governments 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** Member Parliaments to remove all obstacles to socio-economic progress and all forms of discriminations,
3. **Call upon** APA 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 and to seek 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 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 frame work 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 support of the need for the financial integration 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 to promote the implementation of low carbon economy despite the global economy deceleration;

18. **Call** upon the APA Member Parliaments to continuously promote the need for reform in global financial institutions and architecture, financial technology regulation, 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. **Strongly Express Its Concern** to the use of sanctions or any mechanisms of financial and economic pressure on APA Member States applied for political purposes;
23. **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;



## 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 insisting 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



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

*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 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 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 drinking water, sustainable water resources management and wastewater treatment, providing a further anchor for sustainability in the water governance field;

**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;

**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;

**We therefore,**

1. **Welcome** the inclusion of water and sanitation in Post-2015 Development Agenda and the acceptance 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 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, 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 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>7</sup> 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. **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;
12. **Request** the Secretary-General to report, the achievement of APA Member Parliaments on this resolution, to the next Standing Committee on Sustainable Development.

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**Integrated water resources management (IWRM)** has been defined by the Global Water Partnership<sup>y</sup> (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".



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

*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.



## Draft Resolution on Asian Climate Financial Initiative

*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.

## **Draft Resolutions of Standing Committee on Political Affairs**

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## Draft Resolution on “Towards an Asian Parliament”

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

**Recalling** the document titled “Foundations of an Asian Parliament” prepared by the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) Permanent Secretariat in May, 2014;

**Further recalling** the Lahore Declaration adopted on 3rd Dec, 2014 by APA Plenary that established the Special Committee on the Creation of the Asian Parliament (SCCAP), to consult with Member Parliaments in order to formulate a road map for Asian Parliament, reflecting the emergence of the Asian Century;

**Emphasizing** that the creation of an Asian Parliament is a long term objective, various aspects of which need to be explored as stipulated in the report of APA Standing Committee on Political Affairs held on 2 June 2016 in Jordan;

**Welcoming** the decision made in the meeting of the SCCAP convened in Jordan in June 2016 and approved by the 9<sup>th</sup> APA Plenary meeting in 2016, that the SCCAP will function under the APA Standing Committee on Political Affairs;

**Recalling** the discussion of the SCCAP meeting held on 29 November 2016, Siem Reap, Kingdom of Cambodia;

**Therefore,**

1. **Reiterate** our resolve to continue efforts and support the fulfilment of SCCAP’s objectives;
2. **Support** the step by step and inclusive efforts of the SCCAP in promoting cooperation through consultation with Member Parliaments on common issues such as environment, poverty alleviation, trade and regional connectivity amongst others;
3. **Support** the creation of Working Group in the APA for providing input to the APA Secretariat. The Working Group for the purpose of the Asian Parliaments shall submit their input through the APA secretariat which will place a report containing proposals to the Standing Committee on Political Affairs before every plenary;



## Draft Resolution on Good Governance

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

**Realizing** that good governance is inextricably linked to sustainable development, *which* leads to stability and prosperity;

**Taking** in to account all characteristic of Good Governance and their effects on achievement of SDGs and prosperity of human being;

**Recognizing** the importance of good governance in the achievement of SDGs as one of means to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies;

1. **Reiterate** that good governance is a key to achieving inclusive economic, social and institutional development;
2. **Recognizes** that transparency in all its forms and manifestations, free, responsible media, popular participation in government, and a vibrant civil society are the pillars of good governance;
3. **Stresses** upon the Member Parliaments to identify gaps in governance which may lead to poverty, injustice and inequality;
4. **Calls upon** Member Parliaments to ensure as appropriate enhanced participation of women, youth and persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities in the national political process;



## Draft Resolution on the Rule of Law and Judicial Empowerment

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

**Reaffirms** the universal realization of the right of peoples under colonial, foreign and alien dominations, to self-determination is a fundamental condition for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights and for the preservation and promotion of such rights;

**Recalling** the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including those of sovereign equality and independence of all States, which are indispensable foundations for a more peaceful, prosperous and a conflict free world;

**Recognizing** that the rule of law at national and international levels is essential for all states equally, and respect for and promotion of the rule of law and justice are the guiding principles for every state;

**Further** recognizing that all persons, institutions and entities, public and private, have a right to be accorded equal protection of the law and to be treated in accordance with the law, without any discrimination;

**Reaffirming** the duty of all Member States to settle their international disputes through peaceful means, including, negotiation, mediation, conciliation, arbitration and judicial settlement;

**Further reaffirming** that the rule of law is essential for independence of judiciary and the protection of human rights can be realized through the empowerment of the judiciary;

**Convinced** that the rule of law and sustainable development are inextricably linked and mutually reinforcing and contribute to the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

**Supporting** the principles of sovereign equality of states, non-intervention in the internal or external affairs of states and condemning as a violation of this principle any interference by states in the internal affairs of other states with the aim of forging change of legitimate governments;

**Stressing** that the key role in maintaining of the rule of law belongs to states and those international efforts to strengthen the rule of law should complement national efforts, but not substitute them;

1. **Stress** the importance of capacity development through rule of law;

2. **Emphasize** the importance of institutional strengthening by maintaining the rule of law;
3. **Stress** also the necessity for strengthening the international judicial cooperation among judicial authorities of all Member States.
4. **Urge** Member Parliaments to ensure compliance with internationally agreed human rights and humanitarian laws.
5. **Encourage** the promotion of a system of justice which incorporates the full range of judicial measures to ensure accountability, justice, provide remedies to victims, reconciliation, and establish independent oversight;
6. **Reiterate** our strong and unequivocal condemnation of terrorism, extremism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes, as it constitutes one of the most serious threats to the rule of Law; and
7. **Emphasize** the importance of our continued efforts for promotion of the rule of law in all its aspects, and to take steps to strengthen the rule of law for realization of peace and security, human rights and development.



## Draft Resolution on Good Parliamentary Practices

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

**Noting** the ever increasing and assertive role of parliaments in public affairs and in the promotion of democratization for ensuring good governance;

**Taking** into account the fact that 181 states have adopted parliamentary systems for managing their national affairs;

**Taking** into account the cultural diversity, role of minorities, diversity of religions, faith and ethnics in all societies of Asia.

**Noting** the cardinal role that parliaments play in a democratic polity and in addressing issues of public importance;

**Recognizing** that parliaments must be truly representative, transparent, accessible, accountable and effective in its functions;

1. **Urge** APA Member Parliaments to adopt transparent modes of public communications, through ensuring access to their administrative system and to develop their own websites and broadcasting channels;
2. Further **urge** APA Member Parliaments to devise effective outreach mechanisms for engagement with public, including, civil society, with a view to ensure their meaningful contribution in the legislative processes;
3. **Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to adopt measures for ensuring public confidence in the integrity of parliamentarians, through enforceable codes of conduct and transparency in managing the affairs of political parties and their funding;
4. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to streamline their legislative process by encouraging public hearing in respective constituencies;
5. **Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to ensure their effective participation at regional and international forums with a view to promote transnational collaboration amongst Member Parliaments, and to devise a strategy towards this end by the APA;
6. **Also call upon** APA Member Parliaments to ensure their oversight of the executive, particularly, in the formulation of international policy, and to make recommendations to their respective governments towards a peaceful settlement of international disputes;

7. **Urge** APA Member Parliaments to adopt positive measures for ensuring a meaningful participation of women, minorities and marginalized communities in their working;
8. **Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to promote inter-parliamentary cooperation through formation of friendship groups and working groups on issues of common interest;
9. **Further Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to encourage developing democracies through sharing their experiences and best parliamentary practices and provide technical and other required support with a view to facilitate their process of democratization.



## Draft Resolution on Building Prosperity in Asia through Friendship and Cooperation

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

**Recalling** relevant APA resolutions on Advancing the Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia (APA/Res/2015/01—11 December 2015); Resolution on Measures and Methods of Materialization of Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia (APA/Res/2014/01— 3 December 2014); Resolution on Consolidation of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia (APA/Res/2013/01-- 9 December 2013); Resolution on Reinforcing the Declaration on Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia (APA/Res/2010/09—30 November 2010); Resolution on Pursuing Implementation of the Declaration on the Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia (APA/Res/2008/09, 29 November 2008) and Resolution on the Friendship Pact in Asia; (APA/Res/2007/06, dated 19 November 2007); Text of the Declaration on Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia (APA/Res/2007/06/Annex, 19 November 2007);

**Relying on** deep-rooted ties of history, geography, culture, economy, politics, and civilization which bind Asian nations together;

**Recognizing** the amity and the friendly relations among the Asian Nations, Parliaments, and States as an indispensable asset which need to be further strengthened by all kinds of inter-governmental; inter-parliamentary as well as inter-national interaction and cooperation;

**Deploring** the current widespread war and violence in West Asia which undermine peace and security and entail massive killing and indiscriminate targeting of innocent people;

**Offering** in Good Faith all our capacities and capabilities in parliamentary diplomacy for mediation, reconciliation, and supporting dialogue with a view to promoting friendship and cooperation and contribute to peaceful resolution of conflicts in Asia;

**Emphasizing** the fundamental role of the principles of sovereign equality, political independence, the territorial integrity of States, the non-use of force or of the threat of use of force in international relations and non-interference in internal affairs of States in the promotion of friendship and cooperation in Asia and calling upon all Member Parliaments and their respective Governments to ensure equal and non-discriminatory access of their citizens to civil political, economic, social and cultural rights;

**Reiterating** the importance of the Declaration on the Principles of Friendly Relations in Asia as a proper framework for promoting peace and prosperity in Asia;

**Encourage** all member states to enhance public relations among nations of different countries in order to better understand of each other and to strengthen the friendly relations among nations;

**Encouraging** further expansion of friendly relations including cultural, diplomatic, scientific, and commercial relations among all Asian States and further interaction among Asian Parliaments and Nations in pursuance of the purposes of the Declaration;

1. **Call upon** all Member States to focus on exchanging cultural experiences and deepening social communication through holding forums and events under the umbrella of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, for the positive objectives that benefit the Member States;
2. **Urge** collective and concerted efforts by all Asian States whose parliaments are APA Members to provide humanitarian assistance of all kinds to the vulnerable people in war- torn countries;
3. **Call Upon** all Asian States to direct their diplomatic efforts at reducing political tensions and utilize all ways and means within their power to avoid and de-escalate controversies which have potential to undermine principles of friendship and cooperation in Asia;
4. **Welcome** the initiative of the Inter-Parliamentary Union supported by the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 72/278 to organize a world conference on interfaith and inter-ethnic dialogue with the participation of Heads of State, parliaments and world religions.
5. **Urge** Asian Parliaments to disseminate information about the APA Declaration on the Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia by all available means including parliamentary and state publications, parliamentary friendship groups, public programs, etc.
6. **Decide** that every Member Parliament would motivate public and private media networks, websites and the like at local and national levels to engage in promoting and spreading the word about the content, importance and positive results of the adoption and implementation of the APA Declaration on the Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia;
7. **Encourage** Asian academic institutions, think-tanks and research centers, universities and educational institutions, as well as professional associations throughout Asia to take part in promoting and adhering to the tenets and guidelines enshrined in the APA Declaration on the Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia,
8. **Call upon** all APA Member Parliaments to inform the APA Secretariat of



measures they have taken in promoting the APA Declaration on Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia,

9. **Request** the Secretary-General to continue his consultations and coordination with the APA Member Parliaments as well as interested Asian organizations and academic institutions for promoting further activities and joint initiatives pertaining to Friendship and Cooperation in Asia.



## Draft Resolution on Asian Parliaments and Governments Together for Prosperity in Asia

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

**Recalling** APA resolutions on Mobilizing Interactions Between APA and Asian Governments (APA/Res/2015/02—11 December 2015); Engaging APA with Asian Governments and Inter-Governmental Organizations (APA/Res/2014/02); Asian Parliaments and Governments: Together for Solidarity and Prosperity in Asia (APA/Res/2013/02 –9 December 2013); Measures for Enhancing Cooperation Between APA and Asian Governments (APA/Res/2010/11, 30 November 2010) and resolution on Enhancing Cooperation Between Asian Parliamentary Assembly Member Parliaments and Their Governments for Implementation of APA Decisions (APA/Res/2008/10, 29 November 2008);

**Emphasizing** the need to foster closer coordination and cooperation between APA and Governments of APA Member Parliaments;

**Taking** note of the necessity of smooth cooperation and coordination between Parliaments and Governments in order to pass relevant enactments;

**Encouraging** Member Parliaments to consider endorsing and adopting common legislations on issues of mutual interest to both APA and Asian Governments;

1. **Urge** all Member Parliaments to inform relevant high-ranking officials of their respective governments of the great potentials, activities, and achievements of the APA as the largest inter-parliamentary organization in Asia and report thereon to the Secretariat for circulation;
2. **Decide** to form APA parliamentary groups comprising nominated delegates from volunteer Member Parliaments under the supervision of the APA Vice-President for Political Affairs and in full coordination with the APA Secretariat, to hold contacts and meetings with relevant inter-parliamentary and inter-governmental organizations, with a view to converging points of view and considering possible joint initiatives pertaining to regional and global issues, including the creation of an Asian Parliament;
3. **Encourage** Member Parliaments to seek the views of their respective Governments on the subject of Asian Parliament and to contribute to the work of the APA Special Committee on the Creation of Asian Parliament (SCCAP) by providing their points of views and analyses of the subject matter;

4. **Request** APA Member Parliaments to identify and describe their priority desirable topics for receiving training, as well their capabilities to offer training and best practices, and share them with other Parliaments through the APA Secretariat, in order to organize training programs on exchanging best practices and learning from each other;
5. **Request** the Vice-President for Political Affairs to report to the Executive Council and the Plenary Sessions on his/her activities pertaining to the formation of working groups from interested Member Parliaments to focus on the implementation of APA decisions on political affairs;
6. **Request** the Secretary-General to expand the scope of its contacts and communications with inter-governmental as well as inter-parliamentary organizations who work on issues relevant to the items on the APA agenda in order to facilitate further interaction and joint efforts on common grounds with a view to enhancing cooperation between Asian Parliaments and Governments and report thereon to the next session of the APA Standing Committee on Political Affairs and the Executive Council.



## Draft Resolution on Asian Parliaments' Unwavering Support for the Palestinian People

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

**Recalling** APA Resolutions on Supporting Palestinian State and Protecting Rights of Palestinian People, (APA/Res/2013/03, 9 December 2013); Violations of International Humanitarian Law in the Palestine and the War Crimes Committed By the Zionist Regime in Gaza (APA/Res/2009/01, 8 December 2009); and Humanitarian Crisis in Palestine Particularly in the Gaza Strip (APA/Res/2008/08, 29 November 2008); and the catastrophic humanitarian impact of the aggressive war on the Gaza Strip in July 2014.

**Also recalling** the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council, including resolutions 242 (1967), 252 (1968), 267 (1969), 298 (1971), 446 (1979), 465, 474, 478 (1980), 468 (1980) and 1322 (2000), 2334 (2016), and resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and other relevant international documents.

**Inspired** by the Principles and objectives enshrined in the APA Charter and the relevant APA resolutions;

**Committed** to contribute to the promotion of peace and security at regional and global levels on the basis of justice and the rule of law;

**Affirming** the responsibility of the international community to support implementation of resolutions and recommendations of the United Nations Security Council; the UN General Assembly; the Human Rights Council; and the APA pertinent to the situation in Palestine, particularly in Al-Quds;

**Supporting** the struggle of Palestinian people against Israeli occupation by its all means to liberate its land and establish an independent Palestinian State with Al-Quds city as its capital;

**Denouncing** the transfer of the American Embassy from Tel-Aviv to the occupied city of Jerusalem in disregard of the principles and rules of international legitimacy and UNSC Resolutions;

**Expressing** serious concerns on Israel's lack of commitment to abide by resolutions and recommendations of the UN Security Council, the General Assembly, the Human Rights Council, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, and the APA regarding the human rights situation in the occupied Palestinian territories, particularly in Al-Quds;

**Reaffirming** the applicability of the fourth Geneva Convention relative to the protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the occupied Palestinian territories, including Al-Quds;

**Recognizing** that Israel's severe violations of international humanitarian law and of the human rights of Palestinian people undermine international efforts towards achieving a just and lasting peace in the region;

**Affirming** that the road to peace, stability and prosperity in the Middle East comes first by ending the Israeli occupation of Palestine in implementation of the relevant resolutions of international legitimacy, and not to replace the political solution with economic solution through economic conferences aimed at legitimizing the Palestinian lands occupation and coexistence, and prolongs the occupation tenure.

**Emphasizing** that the practice of worship, prayers and all Islamic religious rituals in Al-Aqsa Mosque is a natural and guaranteed right for only Muslims. The Israeli occupation has no right to intimidate and prevent them from carrying out their duties, while Israeli occupation allows settlers and extremists to break into the sanctity of islamic sacred places, especially Al-Aqsa Mosque.

1. **Urge** all Members of the APA to support and treat the State of Palestine as a full member of the United Nations.
2. **Reject** and strongly condemn the statements made by the Israeli Prime Minister on 10<sup>th</sup> of September 2019, in which he announced his intention to annex the entire Palestinian Jordan Valley, the northern Dead Sea and settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, in a massive and flagrant violation of the rules of international law and the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and its resolutions, particularly Security Council resolution 2334 for 2016. We call upon the United Nations to defend its resolutions that end the Israeli occupation and enable the Palestinian people to self-determination on their land.
3. **Affirm** our adherence to the relevant resolutions of international legitimacy as the sole reference to the resolution of the Palestinian issue, and we confirm our absolute rejection of all plans and deals of the so-called "American Deal of the Century" and conferences that do not abide by those resolutions. We affirm that there is no peace, no security or stability in the Middle East without ending the Israeli occupation, and establishing of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital on the borders of 4<sup>th</sup> of June 1967, and the resolution of the refugees issue in accordance with Resolution 194.
4. **Condemn** all violations of international law that threaten international peace and security, including all acts of terrorism and organized crime, and human rights violations by Israeli occupying forces and settlers in Palestine, and call for international protection of the Palestinian people in accordance with General

Assembly resolution A / Es-10 / L. 23 of 11 June 2018, and the relevant Geneva Conventions.

5. **Encourage** all members of the international community to take up with the pressure on Israel to immediately release all the Palestinian prisoners including the Members of the Palestinian Parliament and condemns the Israeli Knesset's failure to respond to the fact-finding and investigation committees established by the Inter-Parliamentary Union on prisoners in Israeli jails as evident in to International Parliamentary meetings in St. Petersburg and Geneva in March 2018, and dismantle all illegal settlements as well as the entire separating wall and put an end to confiscating Palestinian lands.
6. **Declare** all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken by Israel, including expropriation of land and properties which tend to change the legal status of Jerusalem as invalid and bearing no legal effect on their original status.
7. **Condemn** Israel's continuation of building settlements defying applicable international law particularly Security Council resolution 2334 of December 2016; disregarding the legitimate rights of the Palestinian People including their right to resist and protest against foreign occupation of their lands; and hampering international efforts towards achieving a just and lasting peace in the region;
8. **Express** grave concerns on the suppression and injustice, as well as continuing violence practiced against the Palestinian people, particularly women and children, in the occupied Palestinian territories under the Israeli occupation including East Jerusalem, and in the Syrian Golan occupied by Israel;
9. **Call Upon** all members of the APA and the United Nations as well as all regional and international organizations concerned, particularly the United Nations Security Council and the International Criminal Court to address, under the UN Charter and the Rome Statute, the crimes against humanity and the war crimes committed by Israel in Palestine which threaten the international peace and security;
10. **Condemn** the closure of the PLO diplomatic mission in Washington in retaliation for the membership of Palestine to the International Criminal Court;
11. **Praise** the decision taken by the European Union not to purchase any products produced in the settlements based in the occupied territories and call on states of the APA Member Parliaments to act in a similar way and affirm the full support for international boycott movement against Israeli occupation;
12. **Reject** the occupation policies and measures contrary to international law and the international legitimacy resolutions practiced by the Zionist entity to change the historical, cultural, religious and demographic features of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, especially the city of Jerusalem and its Islamic and Christian sanctities in general, and Al-Aqsa Mosque in particular, and also reject

the Knesset law aimed at splitting the Al-Aqsa Mosque temporally and spatially; This constitutes a blatant attack on the freedom of worship and the practice of religious rites, as stipulated in human rights charters, and the First Geneva Protocol of 1977, Article 53 of which prohibits hostilities directed against places of worship.

13. **Reject** the illegal decisions taken by the Israeli Knesset, such as the Judaization of Jerusalem, the Law of Loyalty to Citizenship, the Denial of the Palestinian State and the rights of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Territories, the Law of Jewish Nationalism, and / withholding the Financing of the State of Palestine, and the theft of clearing funds that belong to the State of Palestine under the pretext of Palestinian caring for the families of the martyrs and wounded and the families of prisoners and detainees, who are victims of the occupation, in violation of Articles 89 and 98 of the Geneva Convention.
14. **Reject** and condemn the US Administration's decision to suspend its financial contributions to UNRWA, and all attempts, resolutions and alternatives that affect the status and role of UNRWA established by UN Resolution 302 of 1949. We call on all countries in the world, especially the members of this Assembly, to support and protect UNRWA's budget so that it can fulfill its obligations to about 6 million Palestinian refugees until their case is resolved in accordance with UN Resolution 194.
15. **Call upon** the international community to fulfill its pledges to rebuild infrastructure and rehabilitate people in Gaza, which have been destroyed by Israeli forces, and to support the Palestinian economy in the occupied Palestine.
16. **Call upon** countries that have established embassies, offices or diplomatic missions in occupied Jerusalem, to draw back the decisions in compliance with the UN Security Council resolutions referred to in the preamble to the resolution, in particular resolution 478 of August 1980, and UN General Assembly Resolution: A / ES-10 / L. 22 of December 2017, which considered the recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital as null and void, and calling on all APA member states to refrain from establishing diplomatic missions in occupied Jerusalem.
17. **Affirm** that development, investment and improvement of the standard of living are rights denied to the Palestinian people for 52 years now, due to the continuation of the Israeli occupation. It's a must first to end the occupation, in order to liberate the Palestinian economy, and enable the Palestinian people to control their natural resources and economic wealth, and invest to live a decent life away from blackmail and bargaining.
18. **Reaffirms** its rejection of US Secretary of State declaration on 18th of Nov 2019 that Israeli settlement in the Occupied Palestinian Territories is not inconsistent with the international law and considers the declaration a flagrant violation of

international law and UN resolutions in particular UN Security Council resolution 2334.

19. **Invites** the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to expedite the publication of the “Black List” of Israeli and foreign companies dealing and/or working in Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories as a necessary step to isolate settlements and protect human rights.





## Draft Resolution on Harmonious Development through Democracy

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

**Recalling** the principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter, which reaffirms the dignity and worth of human beings, in the equal rights of nations large and small and the principle of the sovereign equality of the UN Members;

**Recalling** also the United Nations Member commitment stipulated in the UN Charter to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all people;

**Reiterating** that democracy, dignity of human beings, rule of law and justice are universal, interconnected, mutually reinforcing and crucial for development;

**Recognizing** that the eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development and in this regard, stressing on the importance of an enabling environment based on principals of democracy for the promotion of higher living standards, decent employment, and conditions for economic and social progress and development;

**Mindful** of the need for leading role of Parliaments towards the full realization of SDGs;

1. **Acknowledge** the core role of Parliaments in the socio-economic development by involving the will of the people through transparent, accessible, accountable and effective institutions at all levels;
2. **Consider** democracy, transparency and accountability among the important means to sustainably end poverty, promote shared prosperity and the basic social and economic needs;
3. **Commit** to remove and eradicate all obstacles in the administration of socio-economic polices and all forms of discriminations, including, but not limited to race, color, creed, cast, sex, language, religion, nationality, and ethnicity;
4. **Recognize** the need for active engagement with civil society organization and youth at all tiers of governance to ensure equitable development;

5. **Urge** that APA Members Parliaments shall continue to encourage sustainable human development through social security programs for marginalized segments of the society;
6. **Acknowledge** that regional disparities in economic development are amongst the leading causes of marginalization of efficacy and efficiency of democratic setups. Requiring affirmative actions to bring equitable and judicious development across the region;
7. **Emphasize** to improve regional and inter-regional connectivity to promote socio-economic development of the people of Asia and
8. **Urge** APA Members to generate an informed debate and share experiences at APA platform on the democratic process leading to development.



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## Draft Resolution on Enhancing Cooperation among the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly to Protect and Promote Multilateralism

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

**Recalling** the relevant principles set forth in the Charter of the Assembly and the Charter of the United Nations;

**Mindful** of the existence of mutual interests and common problems among the Member Parliaments and *convinced* of the need to further strengthen the existing cooperation;

**Recognizing** the serious danger and threats posed by the actions and measures which seek to undermine international law and international legal instruments;

**Recalling** paragraph 4 of the report of Secretary-General of the United Nations entitled “Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization” contained in document A/72/1 wherein it states that “now more than ever, multilateral action is needed to find effective solutions to this mix of challenges”. *Sharing* his concern expressed in paragraph 140 of the same report that “multilateralism is being questioned at a time when we most need coherent global responses to these interconnected events”;

**Underscoring** the need to strengthen cooperation between APA and other regional and international inter-parliamentary organizations and forums on matters related to Asia;

**Expressing** opposition to all unilateral coercive measures, with certain destructive effects on the foundation of multilateralism, including those measures used as tools for imposition of unjust political or economic and financial pressure against any country;

**Continuing** to maintain, strengthen and manifest the unity and solidarity among the members of APA, particularly with those whose nations are suffering from the negative consequences of unilateral coercive measures at political, cultural and economic levels;

**Reaffirming** that each State has full sovereignty over the totality of its wealth, natural resources and economic activity, exercising it freely;

**Gravely concerned** that the use of unilateral coercive economic measures adversely affects the economies and the development efforts of all nations, and have a serious general negative impact on international economic cooperation and on worldwide efforts to move towards a non-discriminatory and open multilateral trading system;

**Determined**, for the sake of peace and stability and promoting friendly and mutually beneficial relations among all nations in the world through, including, contribution to international cooperation aimed at strengthening multilateralism and curbing the negative effects of unilateralism, we, the Member Parliaments of APA, *agree* to undertake the following measures, among others;

1. **Reaffirm** our commitment to the Charter of the United Nations and universally recognized norms and principles of international law and the objectives and principles enshrined in the Charter of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly;
2. **Reaffirm** our commitment to effective multilateralism with the United Nations at its center;
3. **Assert** on behalf of the parliamentarian community of Asia to work in line with the expectation that the world will become more committed to promote multilateralism in all aspects of world affairs;
4. **Call upon** all Parliamentarians in Asia to redouble their efforts at all possible levels to adopt measures aimed at preventing and curbing the negative effects of illegal unilateral measures undermining free, open and transparent relations among members of the Asian community;
5. **Welcome** all initiatives of the Member Parliaments to promote and strengthen cooperation in various fields including economy, finance, transport and trade within the geography of APA at bilateral and multilateral levels;
6. **Reaffirm** the willingness of the Asian parliamentarians to closely cooperate and collaborate with other branches of their respective governments in formulating proper and effective national plans to help promote multilateral cooperation in all spheres of regional and international relations;
7. **Reject** unilateral coercive measures with all their extraterritorial effects as tools for political and economic pressure against any country in particular against developing countries. **Underscore** the need for all states to avoid politicization of the UN Security Council sanctions regime, particularly with those Member States whose nations are suffering from negative consequences of unilateral coercive measures at political, cultural and economic levels;
8. **Urge** all Member Parliaments to facilitate the adoption of urgent and effective measures to impede the use of unilateral coercive measures against any country that are inconsistent with the principles of international law as set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and that contravene the basic principles of the multilateral trading system. **Request** States applying these measures or laws to revoke them fully and immediately;
9. **Reiterate** unwavering support to JCPOA, which remains a significant achievement of multilateral diplomacy endorsed unanimously by the UN Security Council through Resolution 2231 dated 2015 and underscore that JCPOA proved

to be effective and has no alternative and welcome the full implementation by Iran of its nuclear-related commitments, as repeatedly confirmed by the IAEA, and call upon all other parties to fulfill in total their own obligations stemming from JCPOA and the UNSCR 2231 so that overarching goals which induced the conclusion of the accord are achieved in due course and in a timely fashion;

10. **Reaffirm** sovereign right of our people to acquire, manufacture, export, import and retain all economic goods required to ensure an acceptable standard of living and a sustainable development for them, and *emphasizes* that no undue restrictive measure should be taken against any country in this regard;
11. **Emphasize** that under no circumstances should people be deprived of their own means of subsistence and development and stress that no illegal restrictive measures should be taken against any Member State in this regard. *Reiterate* that food and basic goods should not be used as an instrument for unilateral political and economic pressure. *Stress* the importance of international cooperation and solidarity, especially within the framework of APA, to prevent such unilateral coercive measures that affect the trade related to food and basic goods and would endanger food security impacting specially groups in vulnerable situations;
12. **Request** the Secretary-General to submit a report to the next meeting of the Standing Committee on Political Affairs containing initiatives, including those introduced by the Member Parliaments, to promote the role of parliamentarians, especially within the framework of APA, in furthering multilateralism.

# Draft Resolution of the Standing Committees on Budget and Planning



Asian  
Parliamentary  
Assembly

(Deferred)  
APA/13<sup>th</sup>Plenary/SC-Budget and Planning /Draft Res/2023/01  
10 January 2023  
Türkiye

## Draft Resolution on Planning APA Budget

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

**Recalling** APA/Res/2008/04 and APA/ Res/2014/09 and other relevant APA documents;

**Determined** to enhance the efficiency and organizational capacity of the APA to achieve its goals and objectives enshrined in its Charter;

**Underscoring** the importance of participation by all Member Parliaments in sharing the financial needs of the APA and its Secretariat;

**Emphasizing** the principles of transparency, accountability, and efficient management of financial resources in APA budgeting and spending;

*We, the participants of the Standing Committee on Budget and Planning;*

1. **Request** all APA Member Parliaments to take required measures, according to their respective internal budget planning procedures, to secure budgetary resources required for the payment of their contribution;
2. **Encourage** willing APA Member Parliaments, to make voluntary financial contributions over and above the assessed contribution to the APA budget and decisions;
3. **Appreciate** the provision of financial and logistical support to the APA Secretariat by the Islamic Parliament of Iran since 2007, and request the generous continuation of its supports pending the full implementation of Financial Regulations and until the regular payments of assessed contributions by all Member Parliaments are securely made; tentatively for APA budget of 2020;

4. **Acknowledge** the generosity of the APA President and Vice-Presidents in contributing to the APA expenses by hosting the events and complying with the APA Decision on Modalities for Effective Organization of the APA Meetings adopted by the 7<sup>th</sup> Plenary on 10 December 2013 through supporting APA Secretariat expenses;
5. **Request** the Secretary General to prepare the APA Annual Budget draft based on the (Program & Performance Budget model), that requires programs, projects and expenses estimation based on the Assembly objectives, and on the policies and plans approved by the standing committee, and then to be presented to the Executive Council of the APA for final approval by the Plenary Session.
6. **Consider** the consequential bearing and impact of the APA Staff Regulations and the APA Financial Regulations on the Charter of APA, suggest the Plenary and Executive Council of APA for an immediate revisit of Charter and Rules of Procedure and consider proposed amendments to the Charter, Rules of Procedure and Financial Regulations during Executive Council meeting for adoption in the 12<sup>th</sup> Plenary session in 2019.
7. **Allocate** the APA Budget financial funds through the following three Items, the Secretary General shall specify the principles, objectives & rules for the Budget preparation and present it to the Standing Committee on budget and planning;
  - I. Operational and Strategic Budget Item: expenses allocated initially upon the Budget approval and attestation.
  - II. Additional Budget Item: amounts decided to be added to cover APA new projects and programs.
  - III. Emergency Budget Item: which shall be decided via a decision to be taken by the Executive Council to cover emergency events or incidents.
8. **Request** the Executive Council to direct the General Secretariat to communicate with all members to give their approval on their commitment to the contribution to the Asian Parliamentary Assembly budget. In addition, each parliament should state their choice on how the Asian Parliamentary Assembly should calculate the contribution; either by contributing equally or based on the percentage of the GDP.
9. **Recommend** to exempt Palestine from the assessed contribution until the end of occupation, and the establishment of its independent state.

## Attachment VII



Asian  
Parliamentary  
Assembly

Working Group on Statutory Documents/Rep/2021/06

18 October 2021

Turkey

### Working Group on Statutory Documents

Ürgüp-NEVSEHIR, Turkey  
11-14 October 2021

## Final Report

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.

The Meeting was hosted and chaired by Grand National Assembly of Turkey (GNAT) and parliamentary delegations from Bahrain, Iran, Kuwait, Palestine and Turkey participated in the Meeting as members of the Working Group and delegations from Indonesia, Jordan, Pakistan and UAE participated at this meeting in their capacity of “interested countries”. (Attachment I)

### 1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Members of the APA Working Group on Statutory Document adopted the Draft Agenda of the First Session of WG on Statutory Documents of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly. Agenda and Program of Work are attached. (Attachment II)

### 2. Remarks by Chairperson

Mrs. Asuman ERDOĞAN, head of Turkish APA Group and Chairperson of the meeting presented her opening remarks.

### 3. Remarks by APA Secretary General

In his brief remarks the SG called on participating delegates to:

- Take advantage of this opportunity and as a trusted group produce a set of draft documents which would satisfy all the APA members and gain absolute majority of votes of the Executive Council and the Plenary.
- Make sure that there is a rational and logical justification behind every proposed amendments to the form and concept of these documents.
- Respect the intellectual legacy of our predecessors and do all the necessary and avoid unnecessary changes to the current APA statutory documents.



- Avoid ambiguities and create a more democratic, simple and straightforward statutory document. (Attachment III)

#### **4. Procedure for Consideration and Adoption of Documents and Amendments**

The Working Group adopted the following procedure for consideration and adoption of documents and amendments:

- 1- Consider the relevant documents according to the following sequence:  
Charter, Rules of Procedure and Financial Regulations
2. Adopt its decisions based on Majority of Votes

#### **5. Consideration and Adoption of amendments to Statutory Documents**

In the course of two sessions, the participating delegations thoroughly discussed draft amended text of the APA Charter. The progress made is reflected in the attachment IV.

#### **6. Date and Venue of the next meeting**

The Chairperson announced that the next meeting of the Working Group is intended to take place alongside with Executive Council Session in Turkey.

#### **7. Adoption of Final Report**

#### **8. Any other Matters**

No issue was raised.

## Attachment IV

### Charter of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA)

The Charter was adopted, in principle, at the First Session of the APA Plenary in November 2006. Amendments were elaborated at the meeting of the Executive Council on November 17-18, 2007 in Tehran and recommended for the adoption to the 2nd Plenary of the APA. The 2nd Plenary of the APA on November 19-21, 2007 in Tehran, the Islamic Republic of Iran, adopted its Charter as on Monday, November 19, 2007. The new version of the Charter was adopted by the Executive Council on \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ (city, country) and was approved by the APA Plenary on ....., (time) \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ (city, country).

### Preamble

We, the Members of Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

*Convinced* that the pursuit of peace based upon justice and international cooperation is vital for the preservation of human society and civilization;

#### *Reaffirming*

the devotion of Asian countries to the spiritual and moral values which are the common heritage of their peoples and the true source of individual freedom, political liberty, and the rule of law **and peace**, principles which form the basis of all genuine democracy;

*Believing that, for the maintenance and further realization of these ideals and in the interests of economic and social progress, there is a need for a closer unity, cooperation and coordination among Asian Countries;*

[In order to respond to this need and the aspirations of its peoples in this regard, it is necessary and immediately to establish an assembly that brings together Asian countries, leading to establishing of the Asian Parliament.]

**Proposed Version**

Responding to this need and the aspirations of its peoples in this regard, it is necessary to establish an assembly that brings together Asian countries, leading to establishing of the Asian Parliament.]

*Being aware of the importance of the role of Parliaments in strengthening legal, political, economic, social and cultural relations among Asian nations;  
Conscious of challenges faced by Asian countries and undeniable benefit of parliamentary consultation and cooperation to tackle these challenges;*

Hereby, declare, on behalf of Asian People we represent, the following:

**General Rules**

**Article 1: Establishment of APA**

The Association of Asian Parliaments for Peace (AAPP) is hereby transformed into the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA), hereafter called “the Assembly”. The Charter of the AAPP is accordingly replaced by this Charter.

The APA is formed of parliaments of Asian countries (hereinafter referred to as the Member Parliaments) that send their delegations composed of members-in-office of these parliaments (hereinafter referred to as delegations) to participate in the APA activities. The parliamentarians who are members of the parliamentary delegations shall be hereinafter referred to as Delegates.

## **Article 2: Principles of Establishment of APA**

All Member Parliaments,

*Emphasizing* on the equality of all members;

*Recognizing* the national authority, sovereignty, peaceful coexistence and non-interference in their internal affairs;

*Believing* in friendship and peaceful settlement of conflicts;

*Encouraging* and promoting human rights and opposing terrorism and recognizing the rights and freedom of nations;

*Emphasizing* on the necessity of full-fledged cooperation with regard to sustainable development and protection of the environment;

*Trying* to create common organizations aimed at providing infrastructures and encouraging economic development through taking advantage of regional commonalities;

*Believing* in the benefits of harmonizing laws and legal practices from among the members of the Assembly, taking into consideration the diversities of Asian cultural, political and economic experiences, with the view to achieving common legislations;

*Express* their willingness to establish the Asian Parliamentary Assembly.

**Note:** The article should be rewritten without excluding proposed amendments and avoiding repetition and the Palestine’s proposal should be reformulated by taking into consideration national and territorial integrity of the Asian countries.

**Russia:**

### **Article 2: APA Principles**

[ - Emphasizing the equality of all members (Kuwait)]

- equality of all members

recognition of the sovereignty and independence of the APA member states [members (Kuwait)]

- [- promoting solidarity among APA member states (Turkey)]

- adherence to the principles of peaceful coexistence and non-interference in the internal affairs of other states
- commitment to the peaceful resolution of conflicts
- recognition of the rights and freedoms of nations [deletion (Kuwait)]
- promoting respect for human rights
- countering terrorism [in all its forms and manifestations (Turkey)]
- [Promotion of human rights, fight terrorism, and acknowledgment of the rights and freedoms of nations. (Kuwait)]
- Cooperation [and exchange of parliamentary experience in all fields especially (Turkey)] in sustainable development and environmental protection [deletion (Kuwait)]
- promoting the preservation of cultural, political and economic diversity of Asian countries
- [Work to achieve peace and cooperation among members of Asian parliaments in order to keep up with the global development and progress, achieve sustainable development and the protection of the environment. (Kuwait)]
- [Defend political, economic, social, and cultural interests of member parliaments in regional and international parliamentary forums. (Kuwait)]

**Palestine: To be added to the principles**

To recognize and defend the right of self-determination of peoples.

**Iran:**

Article 2: Fundamental Principles

1. APA shall be established on the following principles:

- i. Equality of all the members;
- ii. Respect to sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of all member states;
- iii. Commitment to the principle of friendship and peaceful settlement of conflicts;
- iv. Respect to the principle of peaceful co-existence and non-interference in internal affairs of other states;

**Turkey:**

All Member Parliaments;

Emphasizing on the equality of all Member States;

Recognizing the sovereignty and independence of all APA Member States;

Promoting cooperation, solidarity and integration among the APA Member States;

Recognizing the principle of peaceful coexistence and non-interference in the internal affairs of other states;

Committing to the peaceful resolution of conflicts;

Recognizing the rights and freedoms of the nations;

Promoting respect for human rights;

Countering terrorism in all its forms and manifestations;

Encouraging and fostering cooperation and exchange of parliamentary experiences in all fields, particularly in sustainable development and climate change;

Promoting the preservation of social, cultural, political and economic diversity of Asian countries;

Express their willingness to establish the Asian Parliamentary Assembly.

**Pakistan**

To recognize and defend the right of self-determination of the people which is the fundamental and inviolable right of the people;

### **Article 3: Objectives**

The Objectives of the APA are as follows:

I. Strengthening legal and inter parliamentary cooperation and parliamentary diplomacy among Member Parliaments;

II. Promoting freedom, social justice, peace, security and friendship to meet the objectives of the Assembly;

III. Promoting freedom, social justice, peace, security, sustainable environment and friendship among Asian Nations.

IV. Sharing access to up-to-date knowledge among the members in order to promote the progress and equality of its members;

V. Exploiting cooperatively the vast human and natural resources and securing the interests of all members and recognizing their permanent authority on their natural resources; Cooperating and sharing the common strategy for harmonious development and economic integration.

VI. Providing welfare facilities for the health and nutrition of its members' population;

VII- Contributing to the defense of human rights and international law.

VIII. Contributing to the integration among the Asian nations in order to utilize the potentialities of the region.

IX. Countering terrorism in all its forms and manifestations;

X. Cooperation on sustainable development and commitment to protection of natural environment;

XI.

Promoting dialogue and establishing joint parliamentary activities among members of the Assembly to coordinate efforts in various fields.

#### **Article 4: Membership**

The parliament of any sovereign state recognized by the United Nations (UN) and non-member observer states of the UN, which is fully or partially located in Asia, committed to the APA principles and objectives and determined to comply with the APA Charter may at any time submit its application to join the APA. The application shall be circulated among the Member Parliaments and after the recommendation of the Executive Council shall be approved by two-third majority of the present members of the Plenary.

**\* The meeting of the working group on statutory document (held in Urgup, Turkey on October 2021) ended here.**

Attachment VIII

## Asian Parliamentary Assembly



### The 13<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session

Antalya , Türkiye  
8-10 January 2023



### Draft Agenda

(1/1/2023 by APA Secretariat)-V7

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Election of the Bureau
3. Report of the Chairperson of the Executive Council
4. Report of the Secretary General on the work of the Organization
5. General Debate: Statements by Head of Delegations on *“Promoting Multilateralism in the Changing Global Dynamics”*
6. Meeting of the Standing Committees
7. Adoption of Reports of the Chairpersons of:
  - Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs
  - Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development
  - Standing Committee on Political Affairs
  - Standing Committee on Budget and Planning
8. Drafting Committee on Declaration
9. Confirmation of the next APA Vice Presidents for 2023
10. Nomination/Confirmation of the APA President for 2024-5
11. Adoption of APA Observer status
12. Any other matter
13. Closing