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## Standing Committee on Political Affairs

Baghdad, Iraq  
9-12 November 2023

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### Final Report

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The meeting of the Standing Committee on Political Affairs of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly was held on 10-11 November 2023 in Baghdad, Republic of Iraq under the chairmanship of the Council of Representatives of Iraq. Delegations from following member countries participated in the meeting:

Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Cambodia, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Turkiye. ([Attachments I](#))

#### Opening Ceremony:

At the Opening Ceremony the following dignitaries presented their remarks:

- H.E. Mr. Jabar Al Kinani, first Deputy Head of Foreign Relations Committee of Iraqi Council of Representatives.
- H.E. Mrs. Delan Ghafour Salih, Chairman of Foreign Affairs Committee of Iraqi Council of Representatives
- H.E. Mr. Raja Pervez Ashraf, Speaker of Pakistan National Assembly
- H.E. Mr. Abdulqadir Emin Onen, Representative of APA President
- H.E. Mr. M.R. MAJIDI, APA Secretary General

([Attachment II](#))

#### 1. Adoption of the Agenda:

The participants unanimously adopted the Draft Agenda of the Standing Committee on Political Affairs. ([Attachments III](#))

#### 2. Election of the Bureau:

The following members of the Bureau of Standing Committee were elected by acclamation:

- Chairman: H.E. Jabar Al Kinani, First Deputy Head of Foreign Affairs Committee of Iraqi Council of Representatives
- Vice-Chair: Head of Delegation of Syrian Arab Republic
- Rapporteur: Head of Delegation of Indonesia

### **3. Opening remarks by the Chairperson:**

The chairperson presented his opening remarks.

### **4. Report of the Secretary-General:**

The APA Secretary-General delivered his report on the latest developments related to the Standing Committee. ([Attachment IV](#))

### **5. General Debate on Draft Resolutions:**

At the outset, due to the grave situation in Gaza, the Chairman proposed that this session of Standing Committee on Political Affairs be solely devoted to the Palestine Issue. Participants welcomed and fully supported the proposal. Several delegations stressed that no other draft resolutions except the "Asian Parliaments' Unwavering Support for the Palestinian People" should be considered in the course of this meeting. Almost all participants addressed the meeting through supporting the Palestinian cause and condemning the latest heinous atrocities of Zionist Entity<sup>1</sup> in Gaza. ([Attachment V](#))

### **6. Consideration of Draft Resolutions:**

As it was decided during the morning session, the Standing Committee debated the content of the draft resolution on "Asian Parliaments' Unwavering Support for the Palestinian People" and forwarded the rest of draft resolutions to the next meeting of

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<sup>1</sup> [See Dissenting Opinion of the Russian delegation as attached to this Final Report](#)

Standing Committee. Many delegations have offered their amendments to this draft resolution which were considered by the Committee and incorporated into the text.

At the end of morning session, the Chair announced that there will be an open ended drafting committee for the preparation of Baghdad Final Communique on Palestine. H.E. Haider Al-Selami, member of Foreign Affairs Committee of ICR Chaired the drafting committee and ten delegations attended this meeting. The final draft was presented to the afternoon session of the Standing Committee meeting by the Chairman of the drafting committee and was adopted<sup>2</sup>. ([Attachment VI](#))

## **7. Any Other Matters:**

It is important to note that head of delegation of Azerbaijan in her statement during the General Debate informed the Committee that her country stands as a candidate for APA Presidency for 2024-5 and solicit the support of APA members for this high position. Head of Delegation of Turkiye in his intervention reminded the participants that on November 16, 2023 there will be an online meeting on Palestine issue at the level of APA Speaker and/or Deputy Speaker. The APA President has already invited member Parliaments to join the meeting due to the grave situation in Gaza to express their support.

## **8. Closing Session:**

The Chairman of the Standing Committee in his closing remarks expressed his sincere appreciation to all participants for their hard work and solidarity with Palestinian people. He also highly valued the outcome of this Standing Committee which were articulated in the Resolution on Palestine and Baghdad Final Communique.

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<sup>2</sup> [See Dissenting Opinion of the Russian delegation as attached to this Final Report.](#)

Attachments I  
**Asian Parliamentary Assembly**

**Standing Committee on  
Political Affairs**



**Baghdad, Iraq  
9 - 12 November 2023**

**List of Participants**

No	Country	Name	Title
1	Azerbaijan	<b>Ms. Amina Aghazada</b>	<b>MNA/Head of Delegation</b>
2		Mr. Ilham Mammadov	MNA
3		Ms. Nafila Rahimova	Senior Advisor/ International Relations Dept
4	Bahrain	<b>Ahmed Alsaloom</b>	<b>MP/Head of Delegation</b>
5		Dr. Abdulaziz Abul	Shura Council Member
6		Dr. Ebtessam Aldallal	Shura Council Member
7		Dr. Jameela Alsalman	Shura Council Member
8		Ms. Maryam Alsaegh	MP
9		Mohamed Bin Daina	Senior Parliamentary Relations Development Specialist
10		Ms. Eman Ismaeel	Senior Public Relations and Protocol Specialist
11		Ms. Samaa Abduljalil	Media Specialist
12	Cambodia	<b>Yukhean Dom</b>	<b>MNA/Head of Delegation</b>
13		Mousine Sos	MNA
14		Senrith Un	Staff
15	Indonesia	<b>Fadli Zon</b>	<b>Chairman of Inter-parliamentary Cooperation /Head of Delegation</b>
16		Gilang Dhielafararez	MP
17		Sukamta Mantamiharja	MP
18		Hugua Hugua	MP
19		FathanSubchi Badawi	MP
20		Ms. Siti Nur Aidah	Secretary to Delegation
21		Sigit Fitriyanto	Assistant Secretary to Delegation
22		Mochamad Ilyas	Expert Staff
23		Ms. Tiara Saum	Photographer/ Camerawoman
24			<b>Mohammad Mehdi Zahedi</b>
25	Jalil Rahimi Jahanabadi		Member

26	Iran	Reza Hassani	Advisor
27		Leila Taati	Staff
28		Behnam Khorshidi mehr	Interpreter
29	Iraq	<b>Delan Ghafour Salih</b>	<b>Chairwoman of Foreign Affairs Committee /Head of Delegation</b>
30		<b>Jabar Al Kinani</b>	<b>Deputy Chairman of Foreign Affairs Committee</b>
31		<b>Dr. Haider Al Salami</b>	MP
32		<b>Abdulkareem Abtan</b>	MP
33	Kwait	<b>Hamad Almatar</b>	<b>MNA/Head of Delegation</b>
34		Dawad Marafi	MNA
35		Abdulaziz Nasrallah	Staff
36		Saud Alraqam	Staff
37	Lebanon	<b>Kassem Hachem</b>	<b>MP/Head of Delegation</b>
38		Hassan Fadlallah	MP
39	Pakistan	<b>Raja Perves Ashraf</b>	<b>National Assembly Speaker/Head of Delegation</b>
40		Tahir Hussain	Secretary General
41		Syed Shamoon Hashmi	Additional Secretary (Special Initiatives)
42		Waseem Iqbal Caudhry	Director General International Relations
43		Nisar Ahmed	Director Public Relations
44		Zahid Anwar	Assistant Director Public Relations
45		Syed Ali Zafar	Member of Senate
46		Danesh Kumar	Member of Senate
47		Sana Jamali	Member of Senate
48		Palwasha Mohammad Zai	Member of Senate
49		Mughees Ahmed Shaikh	Staff
50	Palastine	<b>Ali Faysal</b>	<b>Vise President/Head of Delegation</b>
51	Qatar	<b>Ahmad Al hitmi</b>	<b>Shura Council Member/Head of Delegation</b>
52		Nasser Al hemaiddi	MP
53		Nasser Mohammed Al-Ali	protocol
54		Mohammed Al hassan	Staff
55	Russia	<b>Sardana Avksenteva</b>	<b>State Duma Member/Head of Delegation</b>
56		Andrey Gurulev	State Duma Member
57		Alexander Tarasov	Staff
58		Daria Skvortsova	Translator
59	Saudia	<b>Fares Alosaimi</b>	<b>Shura council Member/Head of Delegation</b>
60		Saad Alangari	Staff
61	Syria	<b>Mohammad Khaled</b>	<b>MP/Head of Delegation</b>
62		Abdul naser Al hariry	MP

63		Hamed Ali	Staff
64	<b>Turkiye</b>	<b>Abdulkadir Emin</b>	<b>MGNA/Head of Delegation</b>
65		Omer Ozmen	MGNA
66		Vecdi Gundogdu	MGNA
67		Mrs. Elif Esra Onal	Chief of External Relations and Protocol Dept
68		Murat Hasturk	Senior Officer of External Relations and Protocol Dept
69	<b>APA</b>	<b>Mohammad Majidi</b>	<b>APA SG/Head of Delegation</b>
70		Kia Tabtabaee	Deputy SG
71		Mehdi Ghashghavi	Excutive Deputy
72		Mehdi Mollahosseini	Senior Expert

## Attachments II



**Mr. APA Chairman,  
Mr. APA Secretary General,  
Honorable ladies and gentlemen, with all due respect to your diverse titles and positions.**

Peace be upon you,

I would like at the very outset of my speech to refer to the events in the occupied Palestine and the genocides being perpetrated by the Zionist entity against the defenseless Palestinian people in Gaza Strip as a really offensive act meant to disrespect and underestimate humanitarian values and feelings in a clear and blatant defiance of all relevant international laws and the UN Charter. We, in your name and the names of all honorable people strongly condemn and denounce the criminal malpractices of the Entity and call on you to exert pressure on your nations to take an overt and clear stance vis- à-vis what is going on in Gaza and work together to stop the bloody massacres of innocent and defenseless Palestinian civilians.

We reiterate Iraq's clear and firm position regarding the Palestinians' right to establish its independent Palestinian state with Al Quds as its capital.

Our will for agreement and understanding has prevailed in the new era of Iraq of today and we have managed to succeed despite all hardships and difficulties and proceeded to build our modern state and its new political system with all its public authorities and governing institutions. In doing so, we seek to advance our reality and restore the glories of our processors and ancestors and cooperate with the rest of the state's foundations. We also keen to provide a decent living for our citizens and secure their future, and lay the foundations for a new strong and steadfast Iraq.

**Honorable ladies and gentlemen,**

The entire world is suffering from numerous challenges threatening its security and stability. Hence, we call on you to work towards intensifying efforts and joint

constructive cooperation to defy and overcome these challenges, in compliance with the principles of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly. These principles, as we all know, emphasize the need for full joint cooperation as to generating sustainable development, protecting the environment protection, establishing a joint organization seeking to provide infrastructures, encourage economic development by utilizing the available regional common denominators and the belief in the value of twining the laws and legal practices of the Assembly members.

The instances and witnesses of the challenges facing the world in general and Asian nations are too numerous to mention. The worst daunting ones might well be water scarcity, drought and the unprecedented rise in climate temperatures. Our country, in particular, is badly suffering from one of the worst climate droughts in record. There is a pressing and urgent need for reserving Iraq's rights to water resources from regional and international river basins. We hope these rights will be granted to our country sooner than later, with the Assembly's help and mediation.

Honorable dears,

We in the ICOR's Foreign Relations committee have been and are still endeavoring to mobilize all our efforts and support for the sustainable success of the Assembly's work through our serious perseverance to adopt its resolutions and put them in real practice in Iraq.

With my kind regards & heartfelt wishes of success for the meeting

**Dr. Jabbar Al-Kinani**  
**Deputy Chairman of ICOR's Foreign Relations Committee**



## The speech of MP Diylan Ghafour



Ladies and gentlemen distinguished Parliaments members of friendly and brotherly countries in the Asian Parliamentary Assembly

Excellency the Secretary General of Asian Parliamentary Assembly

Attendance Ladies and gentlemen with the preservation of titles and positions..

We are pleased to meet you in Baghdad symbol of peace , Baghdad of Love and History.

Baghdad The fragrance of the past and the metropolis of coexistence

Baghdad, which was fought by terrorism for twenty years and then returned lofty again, regains its glory and life after many years of attempts to obliterate its identity..

Metropolis of love and communication

The best scientists, philosophers, mystics, thinkers, writers and researchers wrote in it and about it.

And established schools, universities and libraries in it

Baghdad, which you know and hear about and see today with your own eyes, welcomes you with the most warm welcome as dear guests, but you are the people of a house and a homeland

And there is a famous quote says “our guest if you visit us you will find us the guests and you are the house owner”

Dear Friends ..

The civilizations lives and died .. it's the nature of life during the history . many civilizations lived a huge prosperous and its intellectual radiation has reached beyond its limited geographical boundaries of emergence and formation, and its concepts and values for which it was formed have exceeded the limits of time in which it flourished.

Thus was the Greek metropolis, whose values and standards remained outside the time limits of its to form since the year 120 AD, and the borders of its geography, where Greece, the Aegean islands and the west coast of Asia Minor. The Greek civilization still lives with us and we have its values for more than two thousand years.

It lives with us what lived the founders of its values and scientists like Aristotle, Plato, Viagoras and Herodotus. It lives despite the weakness of that region's economy, industry and military capacity.

Civilization may get sick somewhere or weaken, but it does not die as long as its concepts and values are a strong present that extends over generations and lives in the consciences of vibrant societies, and here lies the secret behind sustainability. I mean the sustainability of the values and understandings that Toynbee speaks of in his interpretation of history.

And here lies the main difference between the expansion of civilization and the

expansion of the state !

As the expansion of the state means the expansion of its geographical area or the area of its military presence only. It is at risk of disappearing with the demise of the military power and economy that support .

Therefore, we do not believe in the formation of social entities dependent on the power of a particular state or states by relying on military and economic power, but rather that the cultivation of such entities in the midst of other societies, by rape and coercion, would create violent repercussions on it in the future, and the fate of these entities disappear with the weakness of the state on which it depends .

If the West today, with all its military and technological capabilities, has made a fundamental contribution to the formation of the Israeli entity, then all of these capabilities will not remain forever, and this entity will remain a crisis and a problem in the region, in the midst of communities to which it does not belong, and these communities even reject its existence and survival, and the crisis will remain. .. And the societies that surround the entity will one day rush as soon as they are able and have the power and initiative to remove it by force and coercion, as it was established and formed in the first place... by force and coercion !

Dear friends..

The Middle East region is going through great and dangerous challenges represented by the current events in Gaza and the Palestinian territories occupied by the usurping Israeli entity, which require all of us to stand up to them with a responsibility commensurate with the amount of innocent civilian lives being lost, especially the elderly Women and children, who are killed in cold blood and with a hideous criminal spirit through the violent bombardment that targets everything, and nothing has been spared, houses of worship, mosques and churches, even hospitals, shelter centers and civilian camps under the pretext of targeting Hamas fighters and its military leadership. All that and the whole world looks, without taking a serious action in this regard, except for some attempts that would not have prevented the unstoppable blood shedding.

In Iraq, we have expressed our position openly and publicly that we are calling for an immediate ceasefire by the Israeli entity, and that the killings and genocide practiced against Palestinians are a crime that has revealed the reality of the double standards that some parties of the international community are dealing with, which will open the gates to the continued lack of confidence in international institutions and their usefulness in solving outstanding problems in places of conflict, as is happening now in Palestine or the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine.

Dear friends..

We are deeply aware, as we follow the ongoing political and security events in the whole world, that Globe today is undergoing major transformations in which values

clash horribly and events are terribly accelerating. However, the most prominent thing in these transformations is related to the different interpretation of these values and concepts between the East and the West. Hence, the need for international forums for countries where customs and traditions converge and are in harmony with the spirit of religions that have emerged from their land. It is no secret to you that Asian societies are special, for example, related to the centrality of religion, family, social relations and ancient cultures, hence the importance of this event to provide ideas, narratives and decisions in accordance with what we belong to .

Dear, kind presence..

The decisions of the political committee, which we will begin to debate today, reflect the vision of the peoples of Asia for the future of Earth and are a true embodiment of what we aspire to in the future. The resolution to strengthen cooperation among the members of the Asian Assembly for the protection and promotion of multilateralism and certainly the resolution on occupied Palestine will be discussed.

Dear friends..

In conclusion, allow me to convey to you the greetings of my colleagues from the members of the Iraqi Council of Representatives, who wish you a pleasant stay in your beloved Baghdad.

We hope that this meeting will benefit our countries and peoples... Peace be upon you, the mercy and blessings of Allah...

**SPEECH FOR THE OPENING SESSION**  
**MR. ABDULKADİR EMİN ÖNEN**  
**HEAD OF TURKISH DELEGATION**  
**(10 NOVEMBER 2023)**

Distinguished members of the Parliament,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my distinct pleasure to welcome you all at the Standing Committee on Political Affairs of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly.

I also wish to extend my sincere appreciation to Iraq for their kind hospitality and successful organization of this meeting.

Today is also the 85th anniversary of death of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder of the Republic of Türkiye. For this reason, I remember him here with mercy and gratitude.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Recent events proved one more time the importance of parliamentary diplomacy. In this respect, APA meetings will continue to preserve their relevance.

Standing Committee meeting comes at a very critical time when our region and the world is facing yet another extraordinary challenge.

The world is watching an unprecedented scale of escalation and violence in Palestine. While this violence is growing into a regionwide conflict, in another neighbour territory, in Europe, the war between Ukraine and Russia is still far from being resolved.

Unfortunately, the international community has not been able to act in a unified manner to stop this bloodshed.

The loss of civilian lives is mounting each day. Number of Palestinian civilians killed in Gaza surpassed 10 thousand. %60 of the killed civilians in Gaza are children and women.

This is heartbreaking human drama. This is unacceptable.

Civilians must be protected at all times and under any circumstances.

Now is the time for us to come together and raise our voices to put an end to the killing of innocent people.

We need to send the right messages to all parties involved. As President Erdoğan has stated, “All parties in Palestine-Israel war should take their fingers off trigger”.

These developments once again show the importance of the two-state solution for the establishment of lasting peace and stability in the Middle East.

Türkiye is exerting and will continue to exploit all possible means of diplomacy to contain the escalation.

We will also continue delivering humanitarian aid to Gaza.

I sincerely believe hope that as APA Parliamentarians we stand together against civilian losses. We must strongly support political and diplomatic solutions and call on

all parties to return to the path of peace negotiations.

Dear colleagues,

The international agenda is mainly focused on the recent developments in Palestine and Ukraine.

However, we must not allow these crises to divert our attention from ongoing humanitarian crises and economic challenges in other parts of Asia, including Syria, Afghanistan, and Myanmar.

We must repeatedly remind the international community to do more in terms of burden-sharing and humanitarian relief efforts.

Additionally, we should not overlook other critical challenges, such as terrorism, extremism, hate speech and acts, regional crises, illegal migration, human trafficking, development issues, poverty, humanitarian crises, environmental problems, food and energy security, and supply chain disruptions.

The impacts of climate change and rising geopolitical tensions pose further threats to development and global food security, especially in some Asian countries. It is imperative that we address these issues through closer regional cooperation.

Our primary responsibility is to strengthen interparliamentary cooperation in the areas of peace, well-being, economic and social relations within the Asian region.

We will continue to focus on human-centered development, good governance, and improving institutional capacity in our efforts.

The role of Parliamentary Assemblies is growing and we are expected to address many important issues.

Our Committee has on its agenda 9 Draft Resolutions that would further enlarge the scope and functionality of APA.

One of the draft resolutions is about our support for the Palestinian people. This issue calls for our utmost attention.

In light of the ongoing developments, I believe it is appropriate to make some changes and updates to this text in support of the Palestinian people.

Other draft resolutions also address very important issues, such as good governance, rule of law, good parliamentary practices, harmonious development through democracy and enhancing cooperation to promote multilateralism.

And at the end of my speech I would like to invite again to the online meeting on 16 November 2023 which will be chaired by the Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye.

All related documents have been forwarded to the APA Secretariat.

These resolutions will serve as significant milestones in improving the well-being of the people of Asia, accelerating development, and fostering peace.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Today, we chair the last Standing Committee under Türkiye's Chairmanship.

I'd like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to all of you.

It has been an honor to be part of APA's transformation into a well-respected parliamentary mechanism during the last five years of our chairmanship.

On this occasion, I sincerely congratulate brotherly country of Azerbaijan's term presidency. I am sure that this period will also continue to make significant contributions to the activities of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly.

I consider APA Meetings as the demonstration of being together and working jointly with greater power and solidarity.

I am confident that our meeting today will contribute further to our efforts in this regard.

Once again, I would like to extend my best regards and wish a successful meeting.

Thank you.



**Asian  
Parliamentary  
Assembly**

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## **Standing Committee on Political Affairs**

Baghdad, Iraq  
9-12 November 2023

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### **Opening Remarks by APA Secretary General**

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**Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is indeed a great pleasure and honor to address you at the APA Standing Committee on Political Affairs meeting in the historical city of Baghdad, the capital of the Republic of Iraq.

On behalf of all the distinguished delegations present here, staff of the APA Secretariat and on behalf of myself, I would like to express my sincere and heartfelt gratitude to H.E. Mohammed Al-Halboosi Speaker of the Iraqi Council of Representative and other high ranking officials of the Government and Parliament of Iraq for their full support to hold this important meeting and for their excellent organization of this event and generous hospitality extended to us .

It is also an honor and privilege for the APA to have the Republic of Iraq as one of its most dedicated and active member of its community to preside over the APA Standing Committee on Political Affairs this year.

**Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

We have gathered here in Baghdad in one of the most critical moments of the political history of the West Asia and Palestinian case. Today, our brothers and sisters in Palestine and the entire region are looking to us to come up with some practical decisions in the course of our deliberation in order to reach a just solution to end to the atrocities of the apartheid regime of Israel and securing inalienable rights of the innocent people of Palestine. They expect us as representatives of our national parliaments representing here at this meeting to do something tangible to bring to a halt the uninterrupted genocidal war in the occupied territories of Palestine and alleviate the suffering of defenseless people in the Gaza Strip who are indiscriminately targeted by the Israeli's savage air strikes.

In effect, APA as the house of Asian parliaments and Asian parliaments as the house of nations and their voices , should spare no efforts to resound the voice of deprived and voiceless people in the face of great powers supporting Israel who have access to widespread media and other influential outlets.

Under such circumstances our nations expect the APA not to restrict itself to convey a message of peace and solidarity merely in words with the people of Gaza and share with them its sympathy, but also to go even further to take measure to prevent ethnic cleansing in this enclave by the apartheid regime of Israel.

APA during the last seventeen years of its establishment by adopting the Resolution on *Unwavering support for Palestine* stands firm with the Palestinians and I am confident that at this meeting under the leadership of the Iraqi Council of Representative, we will witness one of the strongest show and manifestation of the Asian solidarity with the Palestinian people.

In this context, I wish to stress that APA Secretariat shall deem itself committed to do its best for the realization of this objectives.

I am very much thankful to our APA President to have initiated a timely online meeting on November 16, 2023 to address the grave developments in Gaza. He has invited APA Speakers or in their absence their deputies to attend this virtual meeting. I would urge you all to take this opportunity to present your Parliaments views in support of Palestinian people who are in dire need of international attention and support.

في الختام اكرر ما قلت قبل اسابيع في اجتماع الاتحاد الدولي للبرلمانات في لوندنا - انغولا

يا احرار العالم

يا ابناء اسيا

الإسرائيلي ان الصمت أمام الجرائم ضد الإنسانية و التمييز العنصري و الإبادة الجماعية التي يرتكبها نظام الفصل العنصري ليس له نتيجة سوى تشجيع الجريمة و يجب ان نكون جميعا مسؤولين أمام التاريخ و الأمم و الأجيال القادمة

فسلام الله على غزة و اهلها و أبنائها و نساءها و أطفالها و كبارها و صغارها و أبطالها و على صمودها

و سيعلم الذين ظلموا أي منقلب ينقلبون

و كان حقا علينا نصر المؤمنين

و النصر لغزة و لفلسطين

Thank you very much for your attention.



Attachment III

Asian Parliamentary Assembly



**Standing Committee on  
Political Affairs**

**Baghdad, Iraq  
9 - 12 November 2023**

**Draft Agenda**



(11/06/2023 by APA Secretariat)-V2

- 1) Adoption of the Agenda
- 2) Election of the Bureau
- 3) Opening Remarks by Chairperson
- 4) Report of the APA Secretary General
- 5) General Debate on Draft Resolutions.
- 6) Consideration of Draft Resolutions:

1. Draft Resolution on Good Governance
2. Draft Resolution on the Rule of Law and Judicial Empowerment
3. Draft Resolution on Good Parliamentary Practices
4. Draft Resolution on Building Prosperity in Asia through Friendship and Cooperation
5. Draft Resolution on Asian Parliaments and Governments Together for Prosperity in Asia
6. Draft Resolution on Asian Parliaments' Unwavering Support for the Palestinian People
7. Draft Resolution on Harmonious Development through Democracy
8. Draft Resolution on Enhancing Cooperation among the Members of the Asian Draft Parliamentary Assembly to Protect and Promote Multilateralism
9. Draft Resolution on Promoting Respect for International Agreements and Treaties (New-Kuwait)

- 7) Any other matters.

Closing Session.



Asian  
Parliamentary  
Assembly

## Standing Committee on Political Affairs

Baghdad, Iraq

9-12 November 2023

## Report of the Secretary General

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

It is a great pleasure and privilege for me to welcome you all to the Standing Committee meeting of Political Affairs in the magnificent capital city of Baghdad. I would like also to highly appreciate all member parliaments who have participated at this important meeting and express my special thanks to the Iraqi Council of Representative for the excellent arrangements of the meeting and their full support extended to the Secretariat to hold this event.

**Dear Colleagues,**

As you may recall, the Standing Committee on Political Affairs at its last meeting, held in 8 January 2023 in Antalya, Türkiye, considered nine draft resolutions and adopted 6 draft resolution out of nine.

At this meeting we will consider the following 8 draft resolutions:

1. Draft Resolution on Good Governance
2. Draft Resolution on the Rule of Law and Judicial Empowerment
3. Draft Resolution on Good Parliamentary Practices
4. Draft Resolution on Building Prosperity in Asia through Friendship and Cooperation
5. Draft Resolution on Asian Parliaments and Governments Together for Prosperity in Asia
6. Draft Resolution on Asian Parliaments' Unwavering Support for the Palestinian People
7. Draft Resolution on Harmonious Development through Democracy
8. Draft Resolution on Enhancing Cooperation among the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly to Protect and Promote Multilateralism

- On draft resolution titled “*Asian Parliaments’ Unwavering Support for the Palestinian People*” the delegation of Palestine proposed that a “Commission” be established within APA to address the Palestinian issues and majority of the participants supported this proposal. Immediately after the meeting, Secretariat sent a letter to the Palestinian Legislative Council and request them to provide the Secretariat with the details of the proposed “Commission” for the circulation among APA members.
- Draft resolution on “*Towards an Asian Parliament*” is eliminated from the agenda of the Committee, based on the conclusion of the chair of the Working Group on Asian Parliament a the 12<sup>th</sup> APA Plenary 2019, Antalya, Turkiye.
- A new draft resolution on "*Promoting Respect for International Agreement and Treaties*" is proposed by Kuwait delegation. This draft resolution will be considered at the next Standing Committee meeting.

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

In conclusion, I would like to underline the critical situation of today’s world in particular in the Middle East and appeal the distinguished delegations participating at this meeting to show their firm solidarity and unwavering support to the Palestinian people by condemnation of the brutal violation of all international humanitarian laws and genocidal war waged by the Israeli regime against Palestinian People. This is the time that we should demonstrate our Asian Solidarity with the Palestinian people in any way that we could to the world and stand with the oppressed Palestinian people vis-a- vis brutal oppressors.

Finally, I would like to thank and appreciate once again the Iraqi Council of Representative for holding and chairing this important SC Meeting. I would also like to remind you that by the commitment and generosity of the APA vice- presidents and the chairs of the four standing committees, we succeed to conclude all standing committee meetings and we are going to meet on 27-28 November in Antalya for the First Executive Council meeting.

**Thank you very much**



**Speech of the head of Iraqi delegation Representative, Dr. Haider Al-Salami  
Member of Foreign Affairs Committee**

**In the name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful Hon. Chairman of the  
Committee**

**Your Excellency, APA's Secretary General Distinguished, heads of delegations  
Dear, respected attendees**

**May Allah's peace, Mercy, and Blessings be upon you all.**

We welcome you to your second country, Iraq, Mesopotamia, and the home of the greatest civilizations, and the first to teach humanity writing. We meet today under the name "Asia," a continent that is distinguished by the diversity of its countries and the composition of its people, and which constitutes a global center of gravity with its insignificant economic and human resources.

We meet here, awaring of the magnitude of the challenges facing our dear continent at various levels, and also fully aware that these challenges require legislation that will strengthen the relations of this continent internationally and reject everything that would tear or weaken its fabric.

democratic systems that would achieve the aspirations of their peoples, we have come together today in order to sustain the momentum of their young democratic experience and to activate their parliamentary diplomacy aimed at developing the relations that bind their peoples and enhancing their expertise in various political, economic, social, cultural, and other fields in order to preserve the gains of their peoples that they have long struggled for. In order to gain its independence, and in this context, we cannot fail to take a closer look at what the Arab region is witnessing, especially Palestine, which is an integral part of it and of the Asian continent.

the colonial states from the stage of direct colonialism as an inevitable result of the struggle of the peoples of the world who had been suffering under the yoke of this colonialism for long decades, Palestine, alone, continued to suffer from the influence of this type of colonialism to this day, and our people in Palestine remain struggling to regain their occupied land and their homeland confiscated by the Zionist entity, with the support and assistance of countries that long call for the right to self-determination and adopt human rights principles.

In accordance with the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. These forces that have always shouted at us with slogans of freedom and democracy, we see

with our own eyes today the false application of these forces, led by the United States, of human rights in the events of Gaza, where they grant complete freedom to kill the sons of our struggling Palestinian people. Today our people of Palestine is

exposed to a live genocide, eyed and eared (seen and heard) by countries of the world...a genocide that will shame humanity.

O, distinguished people gathered today

It is the responsibility of the countries and peoples of the continent of Asia, which were once exposed to what the Palestinian people are exposed to now, to take a firm and bold humanitarian stance by condemning this blatant genocide targeting the Palestinian Arab people and immediately demanding its stoppage, and restore the stolen rights of the Palestinian people in order for their children to enjoy. With their childhood stolen by the usurping Zionist entity and putting an end to the bloody massacre they are subjected to, the likes of which modern history has never witnessed.

We call upon the free people of the world to stand against this barbaric invasion and the argent stop of current blood shedding. We also call on this honorable gathering to take its active role in extending a helping hand and assistance to the Palestinian people in the plight they are experiencing now and saving them from the brutal killing machine adopted by the usurping Zionist entity.

Accordingly, we, in the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, consider it preferable or even inevitable for us to postpone the issuance of all the decisions of our current meeting and focus on the draft resolution regarding Palestine in general and Gaza in particular, given the gravity of the events that Palestine is witnessing now, where international

peace, security and the principles of human rights are being exposed. The human conscience is facing a major setback and an imminent danger. Prolonging and escalating the war will cause great harm to the basic values of all democratic systems, which have long been called for

by the countries supporting the Zionist entity

**Long live Free, Arab Palestine, may mercy and eternity be to the soul of martyrs and a hasty recovery to the casualties.**



## 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 entity 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); the catastrophic humanitarian impact of the aggressive war on the Gaza Strip in July 2014. and Zionist entity indiscriminate bombardment on the Gaza Strip since 7 October 2023 which deliberately targeting the civilians including women and minors;

**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 Zionist Entity occupation by its all means to liberate its land and establish an independent Palestinian State with Al-Quds city as its capital;

**Reemphasizing** the denunciation of 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 Zionist Entity 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 and the Gaza Strip;

**Recognizing** that Zionist Entity 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 and beyond;

**Noting** with grave concern over the continuous and blatant violations of Zionist entity to various UN resolutions towards peace between Palestine and Zionist Entity, reflecting the ineffectiveness, failure, and incapability of the international system in resolving and maintaining international peace and security;

**Bearing in mind** that the worsening situation in Palestine, especially in the Gaza Strip, is the result of the international community's continuous silence and selective use of a double standard policy on the relentless oppression, aggression, violence and intimidation against the Palestinian people and illegal annexation of Palestinian land;

**Affirming** that the road to peace, stability and prosperity in the Middle East comes first by ending the Zionist entity 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 Zionist entity occupation has no right to intimidate and prevent them from carrying out their duties, while Zionist entity occupation allows settlers and extremists to break into the sanctity of Islamic sacred places, especially Al-Aqsa Mosque.

**Regretting** the surge in violence in Gaza since 7 October, 2023 and loss of all civilian lives;

**Condemning** the indiscriminate and disproportionate Zionist entity aggression, airstrikes and bombardment targeting the already occupied and oppressed people of Gaza, inhuman blockade, and restrictions on humanitarian and relief assistance, which have resulted in loss of thousands of precious civilian lives including women and children, and inflicted unprecedented misery on the population of Gaza.

**Expressing concern** at the serious risks posed by the Zionist entity actions to the peace and security in the region.

1. **Urge** all Members of the APA to support and treat the State of Palestine as a full member of the United Nations.
2. **Also urge** the international community to put pressure on Zionist Entity to stop its military aggression against the people of Gaza Strip by way of a complete ceasefire;
3. **Demand** all countries to use their influence to urge Zionist Entity to stop and refrain from taking actions that violate human rights, as well as to lift the total blockade of Gaza;
4. **Call** upon the United Nations and its relevant bodies to act immediately to protect Palestinian civilians, including by lifting the humanitarian aid blockade of the Gaza Strip;
5. **Condemn**, in the strongest terms possible, the killing and targeting of innocent Palestinian civilians by the Zionist Entity military machine as well as all its acts contrary to international law and Humanitarian law, **stress** the need to force the Zionist occupying entity to fulfill all its obligations under international humanitarian law to ensure the protection of the Palestinian civilians and to stop its ongoing brutal military aggression in Palestine, especially in the Gaza Strip.
6. **Call for** the immediate cessation of the barbaric aggression of the Zionist Entity occupation forces against the Palestine people and the immediate lifting of the siege imposed to the Gaza Strip.
7. **Request** the Secretary General to consider the possibility of forming a political-technical body consisting of APA Member Parliaments and relevant high profile experts from their respective countries to assess the humanitarian damages caused to the Palestinian territories under the recent military attack of the Zionist Entity and to report to the upcoming session of the Standing Committee on Political Affairs.
8. **Request** also the Secretary General to discuss with the APA Member Parliaments, other international and regional organizations and specialized legal institutions the issue of documentation of the crimes of the Zionist Entity, especially its recent crimes committed in the Gaza Strip, for later use in the lawsuits brought before the international courts and to report to the next session of the Standing Committee on Political Affairs in this regard.
9. **Expresses** grave concern at the latest escalation of violence since the 7th of October and the grave deterioration of the situation in Gaza and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and condemns attacks targeting civilians,
10. **Reject** and strongly condemn the statements made by the Zionist Entity 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 Zionist Entity occupation and enable the Palestinian people to self-determination on their land.

11. **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 Zionist Entity 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.
12. **Encourage** all members of the international community to take up with the pressure on Zionist Entity to immediately release all the Palestinian prisoners including the Members of the Palestinian Parliament and condemns the Zionist Entity Knesset's failure to respond to the fact-finding and investigation committees established by the Inter-Parliamentary Union on prisoners in Zionist Entity 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.
13. **Declare** all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken by Zionist Entity, 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.
14. **Condemn** Zionist Entity 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;
15. **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 Zionist Entity occupation including East Jerusalem, and in the Syrian Golan occupied by Zionist Entity;
16. **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 Zionist Entity in Palestine which threaten the international peace and security;
17. **Condemn** the closure of the PLO diplomatic mission in Washington in retaliation for the membership of Palestine to the International Criminal Court;

18. **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 Zionist Entity occupation;
19. **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.
20. **Reject** the illegal decisions taken by the Zionist Entity 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.
21. **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.
22. **Call upon** the international community to fulfill its pledges to rebuild infrastructure and rehabilitate people in Gaza, which have been destroyed by Zionist Entity forces, and to support the Palestinian economy in the occupied Palestine.
23. Express its full support for the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to struggle for self-determination and to establish the independent state of Palestine with Al-Ghods as its capital and the right of return of the refugees who were displaced from Palestine in 1948 in accordance with the UN General Assembly Resolution 194.
24. **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 Zionist Entity capital as null and void, and calling on all APA member states to refrain from establishing diplomatic missions in occupied Jerusalem.

25. **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 Zionist Entity 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.
26. **Reaffirms** its rejection of US Secretary of State declaration on 18th of Nov 2019 that Zionist Entity 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.
27. **Invites** the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to expedite the publication of the "Black List" of Zionist Entity and foreign companies dealing and/or working in Zionist Entity settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories as a necessary step to isolate settlements and protect human rights.
28. **Strongly Condemn** the recent Zionist Entity attacks on the Gaza Strip, the killing and displacement of Palestinians, and the targeting of women and children, and call for the necessity for the international community to act urgently to stop the occupation's repeated attacks against civilians, and the flagrant violation of the rules of International Humanitarian Law.
29. **Affirm** the legitimacy of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, the legitimacy of the Palestinian struggle under occupation, and that the struggle of the Palestinian people is a legitimate struggle due to the existence of the occupation.
30. **Encourage** the member parliaments of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly to take political initiatives and adopt positions that support the legitimacy of the Palestinian cause and the legitimate struggle of the Palestinian people.
31. **Strongly Condemn** the calls for forced displacement of the Palestinian people from Gaza and the continued targeting of defenseless civilians to implement this plan that aims to liquidate the Palestinian cause and affirm the legitimate right of the Palestinian people to establish their independent, sovereign state on the Palestinian territories with the borders of June 4, 1967, in accordance with international legitimacy resolutions.
32. **Encourage** the international community to be more objective and fairer in assessing the situation in Palestine, and refrain from resorting to double standards and hypocritical views
33. **Call** for a thorough reform of international systems, particularly the United Nations and

its Security Council, in order to strengthen their international law enforcement role in resolving all conflicts, including in Palestine.

34. **Further condemn in strongest terms** the blatant targeting by Zionist Entity brutal occupation forces of Al-Ahli Baptist Hospital in Gaza Strip, which killed and injured hundreds of innocent sick, injured and displaced innocent civilians, in stark violation of the international humanitarian law.
35. **Call on** Zionist Entity to immediately halt its barbaric aggression and allow UN and other humanitarian agencies to immediately provide humanitarian and relief assistance to the people of Gaza.
36. **Calls upon** member parliaments to take a serious regional and international stance in the face of this dangerous escalation by Zionist Entity and the barbaric, unprecedented bombardment to which civilians in the Gaza Strip are facing.
37. **Affirms** its rejection of the double standard policy, which grants Zionist Entity an unconditional green light and an unrestricted license to kill whilst disregarding any opposing opinion.
38. **Calls** for an immediate, durable and sustained humanitarian ceasefire leading to a cessation of hostilities, demands that all parties immediately and fully comply with their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, particularly in regard to the protection of civilians and civilian objects, also demands the immediate, continuous, sufficient and unhindered provision of essential goods and services to civilians throughout the Gaza Strip,
39. **Reaffirms** that a just and lasting solution to the Zionist Entity-Palestinian occupation can only be achieved by peaceful means, based on the relevant United Nations resolutions and in accordance with international law and emphasizes the need for a guarantee mechanism for its proper implementation.



## Standing Committee on Political Affairs

Baghdad, Iraq  
9-12 November 2023

### Final Communique on Palestine

The regional and international scene is witnessing a state of rapid and turbulent changes, which may affect the interests of countries and the stability of Asian peoples, and foreshadows more tensions in view of the dangerous escalation taking place in the Palestinian territories, especially the Gaza Strip. The bloody events taking place in Gaza, the continued barbaric aggression of the occupation forces, the continued bombing and siege, and the forced displacement of the population constitute brutal violations of all humanitarian values, norms, international laws and conventions, and are considered ethnic cleansing. This aggression targets defenseless civilians by bombing hospitals, schools, mosques, homes, and the headquarters of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), can only be described as genocides. We may have to adopt many recommendations and communicate them to the international community to stop all humanitarian violations and crimes. Hence,

1. To affirm the right of the Palestinian people to struggle and legitimate resistance by all available means for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with Al-Quds as its capital.
2. To cease acts of aggression in all its forms immediately and unconditionally.
3. To lift the unjust siege on Gaza and deliver urgent relief aid to the Palestinian people.
4. To establish a fund for the reconstruction of cities destroyed by the Zionist entity.
5. To call on the international community to adopt uniform standards in dealing with similar issues.
6. To call on the international community to pressure the Zionist entity to immediately stop the war and commit to it.
7. To determine the right of the Palestinian people to establish their independent state with Al-Quds as its capital.

8. To call for support for granting Palestine full membership in the United Nations.
9. To reject and stop the plans of the Zionist entity aimed at annexing the entire Palestinian Jordan Valley, the northern Dead Sea and the settlements in the Palestinian territories in the occupied territories.
10. To reject the Zionist entity's plans to displace the people of Gaza and the West Bank outside the borders of the Palestinian state.
11. To end the occupation and aggression of the Zionist entity to all Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese territories as it represents the path of peace, stability and prosperity
12. To release all Palestinian and Arab captives from the prisons of the Zionist entity.
13. To stop all Judaization projects targeting Islamic and Christian sanctities.
14. To urge the International Criminal Court to conduct a thorough investigation into war crimes committed in Gaza.
15. To urge members of the Inter-Parliamentary Union to remove the Zionist entity from the membership of the Counter-Terrorism Committee.

**Dissenting opinion of the Russian delegation  
to the Asian Parliamentary Assembly to the draft resolution  
on Asian Parliaments' Unwavering Support for the Palestinian People and the  
Final Communique on Palestine of the APA Standing Committee on Political  
Affairs (Baghdad, Iraq, 9-12 November 2023)**

The Russian delegation to the Asian Parliamentary Assembly presents its compliments to the delegations of all parliaments of the member countries of this Organization and would like to express the following with regard to the draft resolution on Asian Parliaments' Unwavering Support for the Palestinian People, as well as the Final Communique on Palestine of the APA Standing Committee on Political Affairs (Baghdad, Iraq, 9-12 November 2023).

We express our sincere condolences to the families and friends of the victims as a result of the armed confrontation. Our thoughts are with all those affected. We hope for their speedy recovery and improvement of the humanitarian situation in the crisis zone. Any violence against civilians, attacks on civilian infrastructure, including medical facilities, places where elderly people, women and children gather, are unacceptable.

Position of the Russian Federation regarding the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and ways to establish lasting peace in the region is well-known and consistent. It is necessary, first of all, to achieve an immediate ceasefire and a humanitarian truce to provide assistance to all those in need. We state the importance of de-escalation of hostilities and non-violence.

We stand for a full resumption of the political and diplomatic process in order to reach a long-term and fair settlement of the long-standing Middle East conflict on a recognized international legal basis, including, in particular, the UN Security Council resolutions. We call for the urgent launch of negotiations, the result of which should be the creation of an independent Palestinian State within the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital, coexisting with Israel in peace and security. Only this approach will allow us to reach a sustainable solution and break the vicious circle of bloodshed.

In connection with the above, the Russian delegation, while generally supporting the spirit of the aforementioned draft resolution and the Final Communique, when qualifying current events in the zone of the Palestinian-

Israeli conflict, proceeds from the need to use the terms and wording fixed in resolutions of the Security Council and the UN General Assembly and corresponding to the high level of activity of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly. Thus, the Russian side considers it advisable to use the terms “gross violation of international humanitarian law” (instead of “genocide”), “Israel” (instead of the “Zionist entity/regime”) and refrain from application of the definition of “ethnic cleansing”.

We are convinced of the need to further increase inter-parliamentary interaction within the framework of the APA in order to end the suffering of the civilian population and promote the use of peaceful political and diplomatic means to achieve a full settlement of the Middle East conflict, the escalation of which threatens to destabilize the entire region.