



## 1<sup>st</sup> Executive Council Meeting

27-28 November 2023  
Antalya, Republic of Türkiye

## Final Report

At the invitation of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye, the first Executive Council (EC) meeting of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) was held on 27-28 November 2023 in Antalya, Republic of Türkiye with participation of the following member countries:

Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Uzbekistan, and Yemen. (Attachment I)

### Inaugural Ceremony

The following dignitaries addressed the Inaugural Ceremony:

- H.E. Mr. Mohammad Reza MAJIDI, APA Secretary-General
- H.E. Mr. SAUTH VONG Second Vice-President of the Cambodian Parliament
- H.E. Mr. Ali FAYSAL Deputy Speaker of the Palestinian National Council
- H.E. Mr. Boris CHERNYSHOV, Deputy Speaker of the State Duma, Russian Federation
- H.E. Mr. Ulugbek INOYATOV Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Uzbekistan
- H.E. Numan KURTULMUŞ, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye and President of APA (Attachment II)

## **The APA Executive Council Meeting**

### **1. Adoption of the Agenda:**

During the process of the adoption of the Agenda, several delegations addressed the topic of “Establishment of Commission on Palestinian issue”. Grave situation in Gaza was also referred to. It is finally concluded that: “there is a consensus view on the crimes perpetrated by the Zionist entity. It is also agreed on the establishment of the Commission on Palestine”.

The Draft Agenda was adopted unanimously. (Attachment III)

### **2. Election of the Bureau:**

The following Head of Delegations were elected as members of the Bureau by acclamation:

- Chairman: H.E. Mr. Abdulkadir Emin ÖNEN (Türkiye)
- Vice Chair: H.E Mr. Fadli ZON (Indonesia)
- Rapporteur: H.E Mr. Zoirjon HIKMATULLO (Tajikistan)

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

Statement of the Chairperson of the EC is attached. (Attachment IV)

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

The APA Secretary General delivered a report on the activities of the Standing Committees and that of the Working Group on Statutory Documents. Nomination of the APA President & Vice-Presidents for the new term of 2024-2025 were also among issues brought up by the APA Secretary General in his report.

(Attachment V)

## **5. Nomination of APA President for 2024-2025**

As regards this agenda item, the Chair stated that two candidates representing Azerbaijan and Iran had been nominated for the new term of the APA Presidency. The meeting reached a consensus on this highly important issue as an established practice of the Organization. The Chair thanked Iran for joining this consensual approach and appreciated Iran's readiness for the next term of Presidency. As a result, the Executive Council endorsed Azerbaijan's nomination for the APA Presidency for the term of 2024-2025.

The Head of Delegation of Azerbaijan expressed her appreciation to all APA members who fully supported candidacy of Azerbaijan's Milli Majlis for APA Presidency for 2024-2025. She also stated that Azerbaijan will contribute all in her capacity as APA President to promote the noble objectives of the APA. She finally announced that the 14<sup>th</sup> APA Plenary will be held on February 2024 in Baku.

The Head of Delegation of Iran also expressed that the Islamic Parliament of Iran officially announced its candidacy for the APA Presidency of 2024-25. Noting the nomination of Azerbaijan for the same term, Iran decided to withdraw its candidacy in favor of Azerbaijan as an indication of Asian solidarity. To this end Parliament of Iran nominated itself for APA Presidency of 2026-2027 hoping the establishment of TROIKA consisting of Turkiye, Azerbaijan and Iran to use its potential Parliamentary capacity in promoting the APA activities.

## **6. Nomination of Vice Presidents for 2024**

Under this Agenda item, the Head of delegations representing the following four member parliaments expressed nomination of their subject parliaments for hosting and chairing the concerned Standing Committee meetings in the capacity as APA Vice-Presidents:

- **Russian Federation:** The Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs,

*An official letter dated 24 November 2023 to this effect addressed by Deputy Chairman of the State Duma to the APA Secretary General was submitted to the APA Secretariat.*

- **Kingdom of Bahrain:** The Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development for 2024 & 2025 (According to Rule 13 of APA Rules of Procedures.)

*The Office of the International Affairs of the Shura Council of the Kingdom of Bahrain officially communicated with the APA Secretariat on 27 November 2023 to this effect.*

- **The State of Qatar:** The Standing Committee on Budget and Planning

*An official letter to this effect was sent by Secretary General of the Shura Council of the State of Qatar to APA Secretary General.*

- **Republic of Iraq:** The Standing Committee on Political Affairs

## **7. Consideration of Draft Resolutions of the Standing Committees :**

The afternoon session was Chaired by H.E. Mr. Fadli ZON, the Head of the delegation of Indonesia.

### **• SC on Political Affairs:**

Deputy Secretary General (DSG) informed the meeting that this Committee, at its meeting of Nov. 10-11, 2023 held in Baghdad, Iraq, decided to center its focus merely on the draft Resolution on “Asian Parliaments’ Unwavering Support for the Palestinian People” due to the unfolding catastrophic situation in Gaza, and postponed consideration of other draft resolutions before it, to the next meeting of the concerned Standing Committee. “Baghdad Final Communique on Palestine” was also drafted and adopted by this Committee.<sup>1</sup>

Several Heads of Delegations addressed the unceasing perpetration of brutalities of the Zionist entity against the innocent people of Gaza and condemned the supporters of the Zionist entity.

In the course of the meeting, the Head of Delegation of Palestine called on the Executive Council to establish the “Committee on Palestine”, as it was proposed by him previously. DSG stated that this proposal had been already adopted by the

---

<sup>1</sup> The delegation of Russian Federation has submitted a “Dissenting opinion” on the “Bagdad final communique on Palestine”

13<sup>th</sup> APA Plenary. Accordingly, the APA Secretary General wrote a letter to the Representative of PNC requesting Terms of Reference, Concept Paper and a draft resolution which would clarify details and the framework of this proposal for APA member Parliaments to consider and decide on it during the EC meeting. The PNC was encouraged to take up this issue and provide the requested information. Nonetheless, the EC decided to establish the proposed Committee and called on 14<sup>th</sup> Plenary to approve it.

Before the EC Meeting come to a close, an informal consultation gathering on the Committee on Palestine was held with PNC representative as its Chair. Iran and Indonesia respectively were elected as Vice Chair and Rapporteur of the meeting. Iran offered to host the first meeting of the Committee. Representative of the following 13 countries participated at this informal gathering: Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Pakistan, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, Türkiye, and Yemen.

#### ● **SC on Budget and Planning**

DSG informed the meeting that the SC held its regular meeting on July 10-11, 2023 in Tehran, Iran and adopted by consensus the only draft resolution before it, taking note of the proposed amendments . The issue of *equal payment as the model of Assessed Contribution*, was also agreed at this meeting and final decision to this effect was left to the upcoming Executive Council Meeting.

Views were expressed on a range of minimum 15,000 USD to maximum 50,000 USD for APA annual budget. Some delegations reminded that equal payment for assessed contribution has already been adopted by the Standing Committee. It was also proposed that estimated and symbolic budget of 1 million USD divided by 44 member states will approximately result in a 20,000 USD contribution per member states per year. Those who have financial limitation will be compensated by others. The Chair concluded that once the estimated budget of APA for 2024 is prepared by the APA Secretariat, we will be in a position to decide on the amount of assessed contribution.

#### ● **SC on Social and Cultural Affairs**

DSG briefed the session by saying that in the course of its meeting on September 21-22,2023 in Baku, Azerbaijan, this Committee adopted 12 draft resolutions out of the 16 drafts before it. Two draft resolutions on “Tourism” were merged into

a new text. Two other draft resolutions on “*Rights of Migrant Workers*” and “*Humanitarian Aid*” which had been deferred twice, were decided not to be considered any longer. The EC endorsed the proposal of the Standing Committee in this regard. The draft resolution on the Commission on Women will be considered under the item 8 of the Agenda.

### ● **SC on Economic and Sustainable Development**

DSG informed the participants that this Committee considered and adopted all the 7 draft resolutions before it at its meeting of May 16-17, 2023 in Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain. In addition the Committee tasked the APA Secretariat to make an overall edition of these documents to provide a shorter version of texts, while keeping the main substance intact.

Based on the DSG’ report, the EC also endorsed the Committee’s proposal to terminate activities of the Working Groups on Green Funding, Asian Energy Market, Water Crisis whose mandates had been exhausted.

## **8. Establishment of “the Commission on Women”**

DSG informed the EC that, as the Operative para 1 of the draft resolution on the “*Commission on Women*” of this Committee, decides to establish Commission of Women within the framework of the APA, the Secretariat proposed this draft resolution be considered by the EC based on Rule 7 of Rules of Procedure.

There was an extensive discussion on the Draft Resolution on “Commission on Women” and establishment of the Commission on Women. The following comments received more attention by the EC:

- The draft resolution is flawed on the following three major reasons:
  - 1-The title lacks a reference to “Family”.
  - 2-The contents seem to be more binding rather than offering recommendations.
  - 3-Some of the terminologies used in this document are in clear contradiction with the Asian values.
- The role of “Women” and “Family” are of crucial importance in every society.

- There are numerous problems that facing women, not limited to the Asian Continent.
- Preference has been expressed for the Commission on Women to be established independent of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs.
- Hasty adoption of the document in Baku was not welcomed. More time is needed to enrich contents of this important document.
- From legal point of view it is advisable to use the term “Committee” in place of “Commission”
- It is very unfortunate that majority of men in this meeting are arguing on issues regarding “Women”. For this reason, it is advisable that women MPs accompany parliamentary delegations.
- Such important document should be adopted by consensus.
- More major amendments should be submitted to the Secretariat for circulation and consideration by the member parliaments. Such amendments could be discussed at the next Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs.
- Several delegations supported the notion of establishing a Commission of Women.
- It was proposed that a Working Group be established to address the amendments in order to redraft the document.

The Chair concluded that the fruitful contributions of the participants on the establishment of a Commission on Women was an indication of its importance for APA. This important topic called to be further scrutinized and discussed from every aspects . Therefore, it would be expected to receive more amendments for consideration in the future meetings.<sup>2</sup>

## **9. Working Group on Statutory Documents**

### **9.1-Report on the Second Session of WG:**

The Secretariat reported that 2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Working Group on Statutory Documents was held on 11 July 2023 in Tehran, Iran. Parliamentary delegations from Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Palestine, Russia and Turkiye participated at the Meeting as members of the Working Group and delegations from Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, China, Cyprus, India, Indonesia, Lebanon, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi

---

<sup>2</sup> The Head of delegation of Azerbaijan submitted a written statement on this Agenda Item. ([Attachment VI](#))

Arabia, Syria, UAE and Vietnam participated at this meeting in their capacity as “interested countries”.

At this WG Meeting the Chair concluded that the APA Secretariat was tasked to prepare a report on the meeting feedback related to the variety of views expressed for circulation among all member parliaments prior to its next meeting . The Executive Council was also called upon to decide on the date, venue and the host of 3rd session of the WG on Statutory documents.

### **9.2- Draft on the development of Basic Documents of APA :**

In the absence of Kuwaiti delegation the delegation of Bahrain announced that National Assembly of Kuwait would soon invite the 8 members of the WG on Statutory Documents to attend the third Session of the WG.

### **10. Any other matters**

- The Head of delegation of Qatar submitted a letter addressed to the APA Secretary General by the President of Association of Secretaries General of Arab Parliaments requesting an Observer status. The EC approved the Observer status of this Association. (Attachment VII)
- SG read out the report of the informal meeting of the Commission on Palestine.
- SG announced that a workshop on thematic debate in APA would be held soon.

### **11. Closing**

The Chairman of the EC presented his closing remarks. Delegations expressed their Words of thanks to him as representative of the APA President for the warm and generous hospitality of GNAT as well as professional and exemplary leadership conducted during the past three consecutive terms of APA Presidency. (Attachment VIII)



## Attachment I



### ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY



## 1<sup>st</sup> Executive Council Meeting

27-28 November 2023  
Antalya, Republic of Türkiye

### List of Participants

No	COUNTRY	NAME	TITLE
1	Azerbaijan	Amina AGHAZADA	Head of the Delegation (MP)
2	Azerbaijan	Mir Kamal ALIZADA	Senior Officer of the Delegation
3	Azerbaijan	Nafila RAHIMOVA	Secretary of the Delegation
4	Bahrain	Ahmed ALSALOUM	Head of the Delegation
5	Bahrain	Abdulaziz ABUL	Member of Parliament
6	Bahrain	Mohammed BINDAINA	Sekretarya
7	Cambodia	Sauth VONG	Second Vice-President
8	Cambodia	Piseth KEO	Member of Parliament
9	Cambodia	Sokun TY	Member of Parliament
10	Cambodia	Peou HENG	Member of Parliament
11	Cambodia	Sopha SIM	Member of Parliament
12	Cambodia	Muythong KAO	Advicer
13	Cambodia	Rattanak MOEURT	Assistant
14	Cambodia	Chuonsetha NGETH	Assistant
15	Cambodia	Veasna CHHAY	Interpreter
16	China	Min ZHOU	Head of the Delegation
17	China	Dong HOU	Secretary of the Delegation
18	China	Yuping LI	Member of Parliament
19	China	Yi ZHENG	Secretary of the Delegation
20	Cyprus	Nicolaos TORNARITIS	Head of the Delegation
21	Cyprus	George LOUCAIDES	Member of Parliament
22	Cyprus	Loukia MOUYI	Secretary of the Delegation
23	Indonesia	Fadli ZON	Head of the Delegation
24	Indonesia	Andam PERWITASARI	Secretary of the Delegation
25	Indonesia	Siti Nur AIDA	Secretary of the Delegation
26	Indonesia	Fadhullah Bin Muhammad ADAM	Member of Parliament
27	Indonesia	Irine Yusiana Roba PUTRI	Member of Parliament
28	Indonesia	Syaikhul ISLAM	Member of Parliament
29	Indonesia	Jazuli JUWAINI	Member of Parliament
30	Indonesia	Muslim MUSLIM	Member of Parliament
31	Indonesia	Ubaid FAURIZAL	Press

32	Indonesia	Masyithoh Annissa RAMADHANI	Adviser
33	Indonesia	Danang Aziz AKBARONA	Secretary of the Delegation
34	Indonesia	Jamila Catheleya EMOR	Secretary of the Delegation
35	Iran	Mohammad Mehdi ZAHEDI	Head of the Delegation
36	Iran	Gholemreza NOURIGHEZELJEH	Member of Parliament
37	Iran	Reza HASSANI	Adviser
38	Iran	Leila TAATI	Secretary of the Delegation
39	Iran	Ehsan TAEBI	Interpreter
40	Iraq	Delan SALIH	Head of the Delegation
41	Iraq	Haidar MAJEED	Member of Parliament
42	Iraq	Jabbar ABBAS	Member of Parliament
43	Iraq	Abdulkadeem ABTAN	Member of Parliament
44	Iraq	Vian ABDULKHALEQ	Member of Parliament
45	Iraq	Ensegam JAVAD	Member of Parliament
46	Iraq	Suha JIJAN	Officer
47	Iraq	Adnan SALAM	Officer
48	Jordan	Fawwaz AL ZOUBI	Head of the Delegation
49	Jordan	Jafar RABABAH	Member of Parliament
50	Jordan	Eslam ALTABASHAT	Member of Parliament
51	Jordan	Fayzeh SHHAB	Member of Parliament
52	Jordan	Amal ALBASHIR	Member of Parliament
53	Jordan	Mohammed ALABABNEH	Member of Parliament
54	Jordan	Khaled ELZUBI	Director
55	Kuwait	Hamad M. ALMATAR	Head of the Delegation
56	Kuwait	Dawad S. MARAFI	Member of Parliament
57	Kuwait	Abdulaziz M. NASRALLAH	Secretary of the Delegation
58	Kuwait	Saud A. ALRAQAM	Secretary of the Delegation
59	Lebanon	Kassem HACHEM	Head of the Delegation
60	Pakistan	Nuzhat SADIQ	Senator / Head of Delegation
61	Pakistan	Hilal Ur REHMAN	Senator
62	Pakistan	Hidayat ULLAH	Senator
63	Pakistan	Umar FAROOQ	Senator
64	Pakistan	Shahzad WASSEEM	Senator
65	Pakistan	Haris RAHMAN	Secretary of the Delegation
66	Pakistan	Muhammed HUSSAIN	National Assembly Protocol Director
67	Pakistan	Hassan Farooq DAR	Officer
68	Palestine	Ali FAYSAL	Deputy Speaker
69	Palestine	Faed MUSTAFA	Member of Parliament
70	Qatar	Nasser Metris AL- HEMAIDI	Head of Delegation
71	Qatar	Ahmad AL-HITMI	Member of Parliament
72	Qatar	Yosef Ahmed AL SADA	Member of Parliament
73	Qatar	Mohd EBRAHIM	Director of IR Department

74	Qatar	Nasse Mohammad AL-MAADED	Public Relations
75	Qatar	Lolwa AL-MALKI	Researcher
76	Qatar	Muneera AL-SOWAIDI	Researcher
77	Qatar	Ahmad Khalifa AL-SOWAIDI	Secretariat
78	Qatar	Maryam Abdulla AL-MALKI	Secretariat
79	Russia	<b>BORIS CHERNYSHOV</b>	<b>Deputy Chairman of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, Head of the Delegation (MP)</b>
80	Russia	DENIS KRAVCHENKO	Member of the Delegation, First Deputy Chairman of the State Duma Committee on Economic Policy
81	Russia	ALEXANDER TARASOV	Secretary of the Delegation
82	Russia	Anastasia NIKITINA	Interpreter
83	Saudi Arabia	<b>Abdullah ALSHEIKH</b>	<b>Speaker of Parliament</b>
84	Saudi Arabia	Hani bin Yusuf KHASHOGGI	Member of Parliament
85	Saudi Arabia	Farris bin Abdullah ALOSAIMI	Member of Parliament
86	Saudi Arabia	Khalid ALMANSOUR	Member of Parliament
87	Saudi Arabia	Khalid ALTURKI	Director to Public Relations and Protocole
88	Saudi Arabia	Akram HOBROM	Director of Interpreters
89	Saudi Arabia	Naif ALMUFLEH	Researcher
90	Saudi Arabia	Abdulaziz ALAJAEEN	Protocol Officer
91	Saudi Arabia	Fahad ALOMER	Secretary to Speaker
92	Tajikistan	<b>ZOIRJON HIKMATULLO</b>	<b>Head of the Delegation (MP)</b>
93	Tajikistan	MUROD SHUKURZODA	Member of Parliament
94	Tajikistan	SOLEH NOSIRZODA	Adviser
95	Türkiye	<b>Numan KURTULMUŞ</b>	<b>SPEAKER OF GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF TÜRKİYE</b>
96	Türkiye	Abdulkadir Emin ÖNEN	Head of the Turkish APA Group
97	Türkiye	Ömer ÖZMEN	Member of the Turkish APA Group
98	Türkiye	Vecdi GÜNDOĞDU	Member of the Turkish APA Group
99	Türkiye	İlyas TOPSAKAL	Member of the Turkish APA Group
100	Türkiye	Osman Cengiz ÇANDAR	Member of the Turkish APA Group
101	Türkiye	Nureddin NEBATİ	Chairman of the Türkiye-Saudi Arabia Friendship Group
102	Türkiye	Tuba VURAL ÇOKAL	Member of Parliament
103	Türkiye	Sururi ÇORABATIR	Member of Parliament
104	Türkiye	Hakkı Saruhan OLUÇ	Member of Parliament
105	Türkiye	Serap YAZICI ÖZBUDUN	Member of Parliament
106	Türkiye	Ali Murat NAS	Director of Foreign Relations Department
107	Türkiye	Mücahit ARSLAN	Deputy Director of Foreign Relations Department
108	Türkiye	Elif Esra ÖNAL	Chief of Foreign Relations Department
109	Türkiye	Murat HASTÜRK	Senior Officer of Foreign Relations Department
110	Uzbekistan	<b>Ulugbek INOYATOV</b>	<b>Deputy Speaker</b>
111	Uzbekistan	Sherbek BURANOV	Member of Parliament
112	Uzbekistan	Erkin GADOEV	Senator

113	Uzbekistan	Khumoyun RASHIDOV	IR Department
114	Yemen	Najeep AL DOBAI	Head of Delegation
115	APA Secretariat	Mohammad Reza MAJIDI	APA Secretary General, Head of delegation
116	APA Secretariat	Kia TABATABEE	Deputy Secretary General of APA
117	APA Secretariat	Mehdi GHASHGHAVI	Executive Deputy of Secretariat
118	APA Secretariat	Mehdi MOLLAHOSSEINI	APA Senior Expert



Asian  
Parliamentary  
Assembly

## **First Executive Council Meeting**

26-29 November 2023

Antalya, TÜRKİYE

### **Opening Remarks by**

**H.E. Dr. Mohammad Reza Majidi**

**APA Secretary General**

**Mr. President,  
Honorable Speaker,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen**

I am highly pleased to have the privilege of sharing views with you once again since the last session of the Executive Council Meeting in January 2023 held in this beautiful resort city of Antalya. Allow me to seize this valuable opportunity to thank all of you for your positive response to the invitation of the APA President and the APA Secretariat for participation at this important event.

On this occasion, I wish to express my thanks and appreciation to H.E. Numan KURTULMUŞ, the honorable Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye and President of APA, who generously received us today in this city. It is also my honor to express my sincere thanks to H.E. Mr. Abdulkadir Emin ÖNEN, Head of the APA Turkish Delegation and Representative of the APA President for his dedicated efforts and unwavering support for the advancement of the APA programs.

**Mr. President,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen**

This meeting of the Executive Council is in essence of great importance in that it is the last meeting organized by the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye in its capacity as APA President. In fact, since 2017 when the GNAT took over the APA Presidency, we have consistently benefited from the generosity, wise leadership and innovative management over our organization under the commendable efforts of its presidents and their representatives. As a matter of courtesy allow me to express my full respect and honor to your Excellency's predecessors as APA president, particularly H.E. Prof. Shentop, the latest APA President.

During these five years, the APA Presidency, in close cooperation with the APA Secretariat and in partnership with all its active members has successfully strived to infuse a new spirit and insight into the promotion of aspirational goals of parliamentary diplomacy.

Today, I am also very pleased to state that we have been successfully able to tackle our programs planned for the year 2023 altogether, under the auspices of the 13<sup>th</sup> APA Plenary President and his four Vice-Presidents namely Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Iran and Iraq.

At this meeting, we also have the honor to endorse nomination of the new APA president for 2024-2023 to preside over the 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> APA Plenary Sessions. I am confident that the incoming APA President will have full support of all the APA member Parliaments and that of the Permanent Secretariat for the commencement of a new term of effective cooperation for the fulfillment of the objectives envisaged under the APA Charter.

**Mr. President,  
Ladies and Gentlemen**

Since the beginning of the turbulent situation in Gaza strip unfolded in the aftermath of the Zionist Entity's brutal attacks and heavy bombardments of hospitals and schools leading to widespread massacre of the innocent people of Palestine, the APA Secretariat has made its utmost effort to carve out a way to bring to a halt the genocidal acts of the occupying regime in cooperation and consultation with the APA member parliaments.

To this end, the APA meetings both in Baghdad and Luanda decided to center the core of their discussions on this critical issue as part of their mandate to carve out a way to end this tragic situation through parliamentary diplomacy.

As a result, the participants in the APA Standing Committee on Political Affairs in Baghdad changed the regular process of their work to focus merely on the issue of Palestine already in its agenda under the Resolution entitled “*Asian Parliaments on Wavering Support for Palestinian People*”. Following consideration of this Resolution the participants closed their meeting with a final communique which condemned the Zionists’ brutality in Gaza enclave.

In addition , the Zionist’s atrocities in Gaza was also a major agenda item of the APA Coordinating Meeting on the sideline of the 147 IPU Assembly in Luanda where the participant wholeheartedly voiced out their full support and solidarity for the resistance of the Palestinians as their inalienable rights to self-determination.

**Mr. President,  
Ladies and Gentlemen**

It is my fervent belief and hope that altogether, we will open a new phase of close cooperation and continue to work hand in hand in order to advance all the future programs with successful outcomes. No doubt, the success and credibility of our organization hinges on the synergetic cooperation and collaboration among all members of the APA family. Thus, I invite all the APA Member Parliaments to show greater commitments for advancing programs of the four APA Standing Committees by nominating themselves for the post of Vice- Presidency for the year 2024, so that we would be able to regularly hold the related meetings on a timely basis and within the convenient timeframe in close cooperation with all the member Parliaments.

**Thank you for your kind attention**

**Speech of Deputy Chairman of the State Duma  
of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation H.E. Mr. Boris CHERNYSHOV  
at the opening ceremony of the meeting of the APA Executive Council  
Antalya, 27 November 2023**

Dear Chairman,

Dear Secretary General,

Dear Speakers and their Deputies,

Dear Parliamentarians,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, on behalf of the Russian parliamentary delegation and my country – Russian Federation - I would like to thank the Grand National Assembly of Turkiye for the hospitality and the creation of conditions for the efficient work of all participants in the meeting of the Executive Council in Antalya.

I congratulate our Turkish colleagues on their successful chairmanship in the Asian Parliamentary Assembly. You have made a great contribution to its work and have taken responsibility for the development of the Assembly over a long period of time. We appreciate your endeavors to promote cooperation and dialogue based on mutual understanding and respect.

I would like to express our gratitude to the Presidents of the Standing Committees for their fruitful work in 2023.

I express our gratitude to the APA Secretary General and his team for their tireless labor and support of the activities of our organization.

Let me also wish good luck and success to the next Chairman of the APA in coordinating the efforts of the parliaments of our countries in solving pressing regional and global problems of our time.

One of these problems is unfolding before our eyes. I'm talking about the worsening situation in the Gaza Strip.

We express our sincere condolences to the families and friends of those killed as a result of the armed confrontation, and we sympathize with all those affected. The death of thousands of people, the mass expulsion of civilians and the outbreak of humanitarian catastrophe is of deep concern. These events in essence are a consequence of the desire of one country – the USA – to monopolize mediation functions in the Palestinian-Israeli settlement.



Position of the Russian Federation regarding the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and ways to establish lasting peace in the region is known and consistent, it is principled and not subject to fluctuations of the moment. President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin clearly expressed this position at the extraordinary BRICS summit on this issue on 21 November 2023.

We call for the joint efforts of the international community aimed at de-escalating the situation, ceasefire and finding a political resolution to this conflict. Its outcome should be the creation of an independent Palestinian state with its capital in East Jerusalem, coexisting in peace and security with Israel.

The recent humanitarian truce between the parties is a positive step in the right direction.

In the current geopolitically turbulent time in Asia, it is important to remain one of the pillars of stability and development, to live by the principles of inclusiveness, interconnectedness, and openness to cooperation - be it on the socio-economic, transport, logistics or humanitarian tracks. These principles must be protected and defended within the framework of international law.

This positive attitude of the states located in the Asian space is clearly visible in the activities of multilateral organizations. Of course, national parliaments and our joint efforts to build an equal dialogue on international platforms, such as the APA, play a constructive role here.

In these conditions, the role of parliamentary diplomacy increases. We are the elected representatives of the people and we guide the will and interests of our citizens. Who better than us should strive for closer interaction!

Today there is a growing need for the exchange of best practices, including in terms of the formation of national targeted development programs. Such action plans are usually built based on the potential of international cooperation. This is where parliaments could make a significant contribution.

It is important for national parliaments in their work to be guided by a clear understanding that ensuring the welfare and well-being of our countries and peoples should not become hostage to confrontational ideological and political attitudes, attempts by external forces to impose their own rules and orders dictated by selfish considerations.

During its existence, the APA has developed a solid base of interaction and gained international authority. Truly significant resolutions are adopted here. They are focused on practical cooperation and ensuring the interests of the citizens of our countries. We always work on current topics. The range of issues that we discuss in the Assembly is very wide. And there are no topics here that do not deserve our attention. The results of the work of the standing committees clearly demonstrate this.

We are convinced that today it is necessary to pay special attention to the task of preserving the cultural and civilizational diversity of our world, which is one of the foundations of national and international development. The Russian Federation has decided to apply for chairmanship of the APA Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Issues for 2024. We have proposals for the development of this important area within the Assembly. We learned a lot of useful ideas from our Asian partners at the International Forum of United Cultures in St. Petersburg (16-18 November 2023).

We cannot agree with those who, in recent years, have been trying to erase the concept of Asia from the socio-political discourse, while imposing destructive views and concepts on the peoples inhabiting this region, which are designed to change their identity, values and traditions, and weaken their sovereignty. The activities of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly demonstrate that Asia has been and remains the stronghold of the Greater Eurasia, whose achievements will be in many ways emulated and followed by other continents and regions.

In conclusion I would like to wish all participants fruitful work and a successful meeting of the APA Executive Council.

And as the wisdom of the East says, if you do good, you will get good in return.

Thank you for your attention.



**ADDRESS OF H.E. PROF. DR. NUMAN KURTULMUŞ,  
SPEAKER OF THE GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF TÜRKİYE  
ON THE OCCASION OF  
INAGURUAL CEREMONY OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING OF  
ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (APA)  
(27 November 2023, Antalya)**

*Distinguished Speakers and Deputy Speakers,*

*Respected Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,*

*Honorable Guests,*

I would like to express our pleasure once again to host you in our country. Welcome to Türkiye and Antalya.

I hope that this event we have organized will be a meeting where we will get significant outcomes.

Türkiye is a country of great importance situated at the cultural crossroads between the westernmost part of Asia, the east of Europe, and between the north and the south. Türkiye is not only a part of Europe but also an integral part of Asia, and in recent years, it has attached great importance to its engagement with Asia. We are aware that in this extraordinary period the world is going through, Asia presents an opportunity due to the historically significant developments. Asia, as a power, also offers significant opportunities to the global system. Therefore, we, as Türkiye, attach great importance to efforts directed towards Asia. We consider APA as a crucial window opening to Asia, and we are making efforts to make the best use of this opportunity.

Especially, I would like to extend my gratitude to all colleagues who have contributed to the APA Presidency of Türkiye since 2017. Following today's meetings, the presidency will be handed over to another country, Azerbaijan. Hopefully, Azerbaijan will also make significant contributions to the development of Asia in the coming period.



Asia, in fact, is an extraordinarily important continent in terms of human history. Despite the dominant Western narrative in terms of history and civilization, making it seem like Europe is the center of civilization, science, art, culture, and all kinds of economic development, the truth is different. Light comes from the East, and in this sense, the sun rises from the East. Upon closer examination, we are very aware of that many of the countries situated in the Asian continent have historically served as cradles for great civilizations. We are keenly aware that they have evolved into pivotal centers for substantial cultural and technological advancements. We all know that many countries in Asia, such as China, India, Central Asian civilizations, the Transoxiana, Iran, Afghanistan, and Türkiye with its Anatolian geography, have had great civilizations, significant scientific developments, and remarkable achievements in art, culture, architecture, and aesthetic values throughout history.

Therefore, Asia is a candidate to be the center of civilization, culture, science, development, and economic progress in the world in the future as it was in the past. Especially in a world where such great imbalances exist, where such significant differences have emerged, and where Western countries, which have been governing the world with all their institutions and organizations for the past two centuries, have created a world where there is almost no justice, law, balance, and solidarity making life miserable for the rest; we all see that humanity needs Asian countries and Asian culture and the suns that will rise from Asia in order to create new values. I would like to underline that today, we are at the beginning of such a historical return.

As a matter of fact, Asia, with its current potential, already shows signs of this. For example, 60% of the world's current population is in Asian countries. Similarly, with a magnificent gross domestic product of \$37 trillion, Asian countries hold 35% of the world's total GDP. Moreover, in terms of world trade, Asian countries have already become extremely important, managing 38% of global trade. In addition, we know that extraordinary strides have been made in science, technology, and education. I would like to draw attention to this important point with a few figures. According to the QS World University Rankings of 2023, 26 of the world's top 100 universities are in Asian countries. Similarly, in terms of the PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment), four out of the world's top five successful countries are Asian countries. Similarly, according to a research center in Australia, Asian countries are in a leading position



in 37 of the 44 critical technologies of the world. These and similar figures show that Asia has already gained the potential to lead the world in the forthcoming period. Undoubtedly, there are political differences among Asian countries, and there are cultural differences as well. We even know that there are some political differences and conflict areas that should have already been left behind. However, especially in the upcoming period, Asia must demonstrate the ability to use the opportunities it has seized for the benefit of all humanity, for the re-embracing of peace, prosperity, solidarity, and human values.

Therefore, we say that organizations like APA and similar organizations related to Asia, such as ASEAN, have historical importance, and we must make the best use of these opportunities we have. Because the world is unfortunately at a very fragile point. The fuse of some regional conflicts is about to be ignited in almost every region of the world. It is clear that there is a need for adopting a global perspective based on achieving solutions through mutual negotiations and establishing a new system. Especially, the developments, which have emerged with the Palestinian issue and forced us all to wake up again, are extremely terrifying, but at the same time, extremely hopeful.

I would like to express that Türkiye agrees with all the proposals regarding the Palestinian issue made by our esteemed friend, the Deputy Speaker of the Palestinian National Council. However, we must take further steps. The most explicit and heartbreaking indicator of the failure of the world system and its loss of the ability to solve problems in any way is the ongoing massacre against the people of Palestine, which has now reached the dimensions of genocide. Unfortunately, some countries that "rule" the world, including the United States of America, have chosen to remain silent, blind, and deaf to such an obvious massacre and even support the perpetrator and could not show the decency to say, "You are committing a massacre." Just as they did in the Auschwitz Massacre, just as they did in the Srebrenica Massacre, just as they did in Rwanda; they do not see, do not hear, and they ignore what is happening in Gaza. I wish that was all it was. On the top of all this, instead of standing by the oppressed, they prefer to pat the back of the oppressor and strengthen their power.



Dear Friends,

Esteemed Colleagues,

Therefore, new centers of power in the world must be involved in efforts in putting forward ideas that will revise this unsustainable, inhumane system. I would like to express that Asian countries are also such an important community in this regard. The ongoing issue in Palestine wrenches our hearts; seeing that we are at the point where the humanity failed, and we cannot but express that we feel ashamed even to speak about it. Humanity cannot do anything in the face of a state terror that has turned into the heaviest occupation that has been lasting for fifty days, the heaviest and the most inhumane attacks, massacres, and has reached the dimensions of genocide, where a child dies every ten minutes. They are now trying to evade this massacre, which they started by “taking a break from humanity,” with humanitarian peace words. In this sense, we hope that the urgent ceasefire becomes permanent. We hope that not only the temporary delivery of humanitarian aids but also the reconstruction of Gaza becomes possible.

We believe that three fundamental issues must be carefully followed by the international community, and results must be achieved for the permanent solution of the Palestinian issue. Firstly, there will be no peace in the Middle East until the independent, sovereign and geographically contiguous State of Palestine, with Al-Quds as its capital, is established. Secondly, the protection of holy sites of Muslims and Christians, especially Al-Aqsa Mosque, must be guaranteed by the international community. Thirdly, the euphemistically so-called Jewish “settlers” who are, in fact, invaders, occupiers must be removed as soon as possible, and these places must be resettled by our Palestinian brothers and sisters, the real owners. I would like to emphasize once again that peace can never be achieved in the Middle East unless these three fundamental political issues are resolved. That’s why we keep saying that the international community must make every effort to solve the Palestinian issue using all international platforms.

In addition, I find it beneficial to underline a few points. Those who commit this oppression will not get away with what they have done; just as the perpetrators who committed the Srebrenica Massacre were held accountable in the International Criminal Court, Netanyahu and his “gang” must definitely be held accountable, as well. For this, the international community



must make all kinds of preparations and, in this sense, be in solidarity with the Palestinian people. Also, nowadays we follow the news with a little more hope when we see that the humanity is starting to wake up all over the world. First 300,000, then a million people in London; hundreds of thousands of people in Washington, New York, Paris, Berlin, and even in the capitals of countries that support Israel, poured out into the streets, crying out, "We have had enough of this, stop this oppression!" This is now a clear and hopeful indication that humanity has found its voice; even though their leaders remain silent, their people are determined. Thus, we are pleased to see that a large mass standing by the human rights and dignity has formed a new front, which we can call "the front of humanity". I hope that, with the reactions of people and states throughout this process, it will be possible to establish a new world.

On this occasion, I would like to remind you that the Solidarity Day with the Palestinian People is in two days. 29 November is the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People all over the world. As representatives of the member parliaments of the APA, we have the responsibility to declare our solidarity with Palestine, to declare from Antalya to the world that we are one with the Palestinian people. As we have expressed on every occasion, I would like to say here once again at the Executive Council Meeting of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly; as Türkiye, we stand with all of the Palestinian people, whether in the West Bank or Gaza, and that we will fully support the legitimate defense of the Palestinian people. Also, in two weeks, which will be a highly ironic situation, we will commemorate the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Is there such a declaration? Is there an implemented declaration? Can we say that this declaration carries significance beyond its existence on paper? Unfortunately, on the eve of its 75th anniversary, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights has regrettably become a meaningless slogan that remains merely on paper and archival shelves. Sadly, at least on this occasion, we hope for the awakening of humanity. Similar to how under the ruins of Gaza, those affected are not only the oppressed and innocent people, civilians, women, children, and the destitute, but also all institutions of the world system; on the anniversary of the 75th year of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, it is, in fact, the wishes and sentiments of the international system about humanity that have unfortunately been shelved.



Here, I would like to say once again: There is no need to shed crocodile tears. It is necessary to take steps to enable the sincere implementation of these texts for the protection of human rights and freedoms that already exist in the world. In this context, I would like to state that the Asian Parliamentary Assembly has a historical responsibility in these difficult days. Let us take advantage of the strengthening and developing prosperity of Asia, as it transforms into a new global power. We can emphasize the need for a new perspective in the world system that focuses on peace, stability, economic development, and solidarity among countries and peoples.

Moreover, by strengthening institutions that prioritize multilateralism and inter-parliamentary diplomacy, just as the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, we can propose new perspectives to convey justice and fairness to the world through these institutions. I wish once again that the meeting of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly will have fruitful results. I hope it will have important outcomes for the future of the world and the awakening of the peoples of Asia. Throughout the past 7 years, Türkiye has held the Presidency of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly. I would like to express my gratitude to all the previous speakers of our parliament who have contributed during this period, including those who served before my term. I wish great success to our Azerbaijani brothers and sisters, who will undertake this duty after us.

Once again, I greet you with love and respect saying, "Welcome to Türkiye, you brought joy, you honored us." I hope our meeting will be beneficial.



Attachment III

Asian Parliamentary Assembly



**Executive Council Meeting**

**Antalya , Türkiye  
26-29 November 2023**



**Draft Agenda**

(11/20/2023 by APA Secretariat)-V8

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Election of the Bureau
3. Remarks by Chairperson
4. Report by APA Secretary General
5. Nomination of APA President for 2024-5
6. Nomination of Vice Presidents for 2024
7. Consideration of Draft Resolutions of Standing Committees on:
  - Political Affairs
  - Budget and Planning
  - Social and Cultural Affairs
  - Economic and Sustainable Development
8. Establishment of "Commission on Women".
9. Working Group on Statutory Documents
  - 9.1 Report on 2nd Session of WG
  - 9.2 Draft on the Development of Basic Documents of APA
10. Any other matters
11. Closing

## Attachment IV



**SPEECH OF MR. ABDULKADİR EMİN ÖNEN  
HEAD OF TURKISH DELEGATION  
TO THE ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (APA)  
AT THE OPENING OF APA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING  
(27 November 2023, Antalya)**

Honourable Deputy Speakers of the Parliament,

Distinguished Parliamentarians,

Ladies, Gentlemen,

As the President of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, we are very pleased to host you in Türkiye.

First of all, I would like to welcome you all to our beautiful Antalya, which is one of the pearls of our country with its climate, nature, culture and cuisine.

I hope you have a nice time here. However, as you know, we have a busy agenda.

Today we are hosting our last meeting of our Term Presidency. We have hosted APA General Assemblies 4 times since 2017, and the fact that we have continued this duty for so long is due to the importance we attach to Asia and this valuable organ.

I believe that Azerbaijan will carry out very valuable activities during its APA Term Presidency which will be assumed next year.

In today's world, where uncertainties and instabilities are gradually increasing, disputes and conflicts are growing, and the world is passing through a critical turning point, the importance of Asia and dialogue and cooperation within Asia is gradually increasing.

In fact, it is now globally accepted that the 21st century will be the Asian century. The lands where civilizations were born are again becoming the center of gravity of the world. Developments in our continent determine the world agenda. The great powers of the West have also been adding relations with Asia to the top of their foreign policy priorities for some time and they are starting to shape their countries' policies according to the rise of Asia.

The fact that Asia is increasingly becoming the center of the world's economic development results in the international community taking on more responsibility, and Asian countries are turning from passive actors into actors that shape the international system.

This situation increases the importance of our Assembly and the work we do here. As APA members, our role and responsibilities in the international community are increasingly important.

We must focus on transforming the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, with the vision of increasing the institutional capacity, effectiveness and visibility of our Assembly in line with the rise of Asia.

I know that reforming the Assembly is already an ongoing debate, but I want to underline that we need to take faster action at this point.

Dear Members of Parliament,

Unfortunately, one of the issues that has not changed since the establishment of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly has been the Palestine issue. The Palestine issue, which has been on the agenda of the Assembly since its first meetings and has made suggestions for its solution in every declaration, is unfortunately getting worse day by day.

Right now, Palestinians are facing a human tragedy in Gaza due to Israeli attacks.

First of all, I offer my condolences to all Palestinians who were martyred in Palestine due to Israeli oppression.

I would also like to underline that Türkiye stands with Palestine as one, with its people, government and institutions.

Unfortunately, some countries in the world just insensitively watch the massacre in Palestine and the killing of hundreds of children every day, while others provide all kinds of support for Israel to continue its oppression.

While there is no electricity, water and fuel in Gaza, communication facilities are cut off, hospitals, schools, places of worship, bakeries and water tanks are constantly targeted, and humanitarian aid is blocked by Israel, the fact that some people still claim that Israel is legitimately fighting terrorism is nothing but a delusion.

Israel is clearly fighting against the civilian Palestinian people in Gaza, who do not have any weapons, and is committing a massacre, almost a genocide. What happened in Gaza is a violation of international law and a war crime.

Those who committed these crimes, as well as those who could not even call for a ceasefire while thousands of innocent women and children were being killed, will go down as a dark stain in human history.

The lawless Israeli government and its Western supporters legitimize war crimes by acting as if history in the Middle East began on October 7 and as if there was no earlier time.

Israel speaks as if there had been no violations in Palestinian territory since 1948, as if they had not killed tens of thousands of innocent Palestinians, had not displaced millions from their homes and lands, had not condemned people in Gaza to the conditions of a concentration camp, so to speak, had not left children without mothers and fathers, and mothers and fathers without children, they expect us to believe in an alternative history.

However, it must be said that this rhetoric has always prevailed over the facts so far, the speech notes prepared by Israel were read in all capitals of the world, leaving no punctuation intact, the mainstream media outlets competed with each other to impose this rhetoric on the whole world.

However, today we see that this balance has changed. Now people all over the world see the true face of Israel, and the whole world now understands that this is not a conflict with two sides, but a one-sided occupation. And this is happening despite the best efforts of Western governments and biased media. People are taking to the streets to support Palestine, but Western states continue to support the war crimes committed, turning a deaf ear to the demands of their own people.

Honorable Participants,

As a result of the pressure of the international community, there was not a ceasefire but only a 4-day humanitarian pause in the attacks.

Every second in which people do not die is very important, but cursorily dressing the wounds of the Palestinians and making them the target of Israeli planes, tanks and artillery does not seem like a gain to me in person. Unfortunately, I am sorry to say that this period only means that cruel Israel can take a short break from killing.

A ceasefire should be declared immediately, not a humanitarian pause, and the international community should immediately stop Israel's attacks on Palestine. The policies that Israel has been pursuing for decades show that this will not happen with calls, condemnations and words. Israel ignored dozens of United Nations resolutions and did not even take into consideration the Security Council resolutions. The only thing that can be done at this point is to impose concrete sanctions against Israel.

International organizations tasked with protecting and ensuring peace, which are already about to lose their legitimacy in the eyes of the international public, have failed again.

The international community must urgently put the issue of sanctions on its agenda, hold Israel responsible for all violations of international law to date, especially the war crimes it committed in Gaza today, and force Israel to change its policies with concrete sanctions beyond calls and condemnations.

Before the humanitarian situation in Gaza worsens, a ceasefire should be established immediately and the unimpeded flow of humanitarian aid to Gaza should be allowed.

Distinguished Members of Parliament,

Distinguished Participants,

I know that the Palestine issue has always had a special importance for the Asian Parliamentary Assembly. A declaration was also adopted after the 13th Asian Parliamentary Assembly General Assembly, hosted by the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye in Antalya at the beginning of this year.

In this declaration, distinguished members of APA decided to establish a Palestine commission within the Assembly, they assigned the Permanent Secretariat the task of making the necessary preparations until the next General Assembly meeting.

I think the Permanent Secretariat will inform us about what work is being done on this issue, however, I think this issue is very important and should be on our agenda at the 14th APA General Assembly.

Ladies, Gentlemen,

Although it is a great human tragedy, unfortunately the Palestine issue is not the only issue our world faces.

The war in Ukraine continues to cause serious concern for our region and beyond. We are all feeling its increasingly negative effects. As a result, global searches to facilitate or mediate an end to war are increasing.

The end of the Black Sea Grain Initiative caused further escalation of tension in the region.

Türkiye, together with the UN, continues its efforts to revitalize or develop alternatives while preserving the essence of this process for stability in the Black Sea and the global food market.

As we continue our support for Ukraine, we must be realistic and look beyond the battlefield. As the growing interest in diplomacy clearly demonstrates, a negotiated end on the basis of international law is possible and worth trying.

Current dynamics may not be conducive to restarting negotiations. But we must be ready to step in when the moment is right.

Other parts of Asia are not immune from conflicts and crises. The humanitarian situation in Yemen, Afghanistan, Myanmar and Syria is a cause for serious concern.

Various challenges continue in Syria, from economic deterioration to conflicts on the ground.

Regarding all conflicts around the world, it is of great importance to return to the path of peace negotiations on the basis of established international parameters.

Humanitarian and economic crises continue to pose major challenges for Afghanistan.

We are concerned about the deteriorating situation in Myanmar since the military coup in 2021.

The international community must do more in burden sharing and humanitarian efforts.

Distinguished Friends,

Terrorism, extremist tendencies, hate speech and actions, regional crises, illegal migration, human trafficking, development problems, poverty, humanitarian crises, environmental problems, and food supply disruptions have become permanent agenda items of the international community.

As APA members, we need to channel the soft power of parliamentary diplomacy to address these challenges and create working mechanisms to contribute to solving the problems.

The challenges facing Asia can only be overcome by promoting good governance, the rule of law, democracy, cooperation and multilateralism.

Hoping to have a useful and productive meeting, I welcome you all once again.



Asian  
Parliamentary  
Assembly

## The Executive Council Meeting

26-29 November 2023  
Antalya, TÜRKİYE

### Report by the APA the Secretary General

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

It is a great honor for me as Secretary General, to address APA Executive Council Meeting and present my report on the latest activities and outcomes of the APA Standing Committees and its Working Groups. At the outset, let me congratulate you Mr. Chairman and the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye for presiding over this important meeting. I am confident that through your strong leadership and wisdom, we will accomplish objectives set for this meeting. Allow me once again to take this opportunity to express on behalf of myself and my colleagues in the APA Permanent Secretariat, our deepest appreciation to the state officials and the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye, who took the burden of hosting our meeting through excellent organization and unique hospitality at the magnificent city of Antalya.

**Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished Delegates,**

After the successful holding of the 13<sup>th</sup> APA Plenary in last January, I am glad to report to you that under the leadership of the APA President Türkiye and generosity and capable management of the chairs of the four Standing Committees, we were able to successfully hold the four standing committee meetings according to the schedule for the year 2023.

- The first meeting was the meeting of the **Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development** which was held on May 17, 2023 in Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain. 21 APA member delegation

attended the meeting and all 8 draft resolutions were adopted by the committee. Noting that the Working Groups on Green Funding, Asian Energy Market, Water Crisis have exhausted their mandates, it was proposed that their activities be terminated. This proposal was adopted by the meeting.

- The second event was the meeting of the **Standing Committee on Budget and Planning** which was held on July 11, 2023 in Tehran, Iran. The delegation from 20 APA member Parliaments attended the meeting. The only one draft resolution before this committee was amended and adopted by consensus. The very important issue of the *equal payment as the model of Assessed Contribution*, was also agreed at this meeting. This Committee meeting also decided that the *equal amount of assessed contribution* be finalized by the current Executive Council Meeting.
- **The Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs** was the third meeting of the Standing Committees which took place on September 21, 2023 in Baku, Azerbaijan. 16 APA member Parliaments attended the meeting. Out of 16 draft resolutions, 11 drafts were adopted. Two draft resolutions on “Tourism” was merged with one and draft resolution on “*Rights of Migrant Workers*” as well as draft resolution on “*Humanitarian Aid*” which had been deferred several time, were discarded. The Committee also decided to avoid consideration of such draft resolutions in future. As the Operative para 1 of the draft resolution on the “*Commission on Women*” of this Committee, decides to establish Commission of Women within the framework of the APA, the Secretariat proposed this draft resolution be considered under Agenda item 8 due to its important nature. It is worth mentioning that based on Rule 7 of Rules of Procedure, the Executive Council is called upon to consider this item and decide on it.
- The fourth and the last standing committee meeting was the **Standing Committee on Political Affairs, which** was held on November 10, 2023 in Baghdad, Iraq. Due to catastrophic situation and grave tragic developments in Gaza, participants decided to focus only on draft resolution “*Asian Parliaments’ Unwavering Support for the Palestinian People*” and the consideration of the rest of draft resolutions, were postponed to the next meeting of Standing Committee.. “Baghdad Final



Communique on Palestine” was also drafted and adopted by this Committee.

- **The 2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Working Group on Statutory Documents** was also among the meetings that we were succeed to hold in year 2023. This meeting was held on 11 July 2023 in Tehran, Iran. Parliamentary delegations from Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Palestine, Russia and Turkiye participated at the Meeting as members of the Working Group and delegations from Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, China, Cyprus, India, Indonesia, Lebanon, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, UAE and Vietnam participated at this meeting in their capacity of “interested countries”. The Chair of the WG at this meeting concluded that the APA Secretariat be tasked to prepare a report on the variety of views expressed in this meeting and for circulation among all member parliaments prior to its next meeting of Working Group. The Executive Council is also called upon to decide on the date, venue and the host of 3rd session of WG on Statutory documents. This issue will be considered under the item No. 9 of the Agenda.

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

As you are aware, one of the most important task of Executive Council Meetings is to endorse the nomination of the APA new President.

On this occasion I would like also to raise another very important agenda item regarding the nomination of the APA Vice - Presidents for the year 2024 to Chair the Standing Committees on Economic, Political, Social and Cultural and Budge. I expect that in the course of this meeting we will be able to fulfil our obligation and finalize candidacy for chairmanship of the four standing committees.

Finally, I am compelled to once again wholeheartedly thank and appreciate the speaker of GNAT, H.E. Numan KURTULMUŞ, the Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye and APA President and also to H.E. Mr. Abdulkadir Emin ÖNEN , Head of the APA Turkish Delegation and Representative of the APA President for taking the burden of three consequent terms of the APA presidency since 2017 on their shoulders. We at the Secretariat, always commend the excellent and exemplary administration of the APA affairs

since Grand National Assembly of Türkiye took over the APA Presidency and in particular during the years of Corona virus era.

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

Attachment VI



**MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT  
6<sup>th</sup> MILLI MAJLIS  
REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN**

---

№ 57/VI-DP-188

"7" December 2023

**Statement of the Head of the Delegation of Azerbaijan to APA, Ms. Amina Aghazada**

**Regarding the Final Report on**

**1st Executive Council Meeting**

**(27-28 November 2023, Antalya, Republic of Türkiye)**

Dear Colleagues,

We would like to bring to your attention that the delegation of Azerbaijan has certain comments regarding a number of points of the Final Report compiled and distributed by the APA Secretariat.

1. Thus, in the Section 8. "Establishment of the Commission on Women" of the Final Report (on page 6) there is the following provision:

**«Hasty adoption of the document in Baku was not welcomed. More time is needed to enrich contents of this important document».**

In this regard, we would like to remind that during the Meeting of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs held in Baku on September 21, 2023, the draft resolution on the Commission on Women was thoroughly discussed. A number of delegations (Indonesia, Iran, Türkiye, Bahrain, Thailand) put forward amendments and comments, which were taken into consideration. The text of the draft resolution was amended in accordance with the proposals of Indonesia and Türkiye.

In addition, at the request of the Iranian delegation, the following reservation / amendment was made in relation to the international documents referred to in the draft resolution:

*Recalling the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (excluding any conflicting clauses to Sharia), recognizing its universal, integrated and indivisible nature, and acknowledging that the 2030 Agenda, inter alia, addresses the elimination of all forms of violence against all women and girls, as well as ending all forms of discrimination against all women and girls,*

In general, discussions on the draft resolution lasted for quite a decent amount of time and all delegations were given the opportunity to speak on the substance of the document under consideration.

During the discussions, a fruitful exchange of views was carried out among the Meeting participants. As a result of discussions, optimal terms and expressions were found, and changes were made to the text of the draft resolution.

According to the abovementioned, we consider that using the expression «Hasty adoption of the document in Baku» is inappropriate. We believe that we need to respect the work of the delegations that participated in the process of extensive discussions of the draft resolution.

Undoubtedly, we admit the possibility of improving the draft resolution and at the same time we are convinced that a lot of work has been already done in this direction.

We would like to recall, that at the Meeting of the Standing Committee in Baku, a decision was made on the basis of consensus regarding the adoption of the draft resolution on the Commission on Women.

We believe that our subsequent actions should not contradict previous ones.

2. We also have comments regarding the following provision mentioned on page 7 of the Final Report:

**From legal point of view, it is advisable to use the term “Committee” in place of “Commission”.**

In this regard, we would like to note that the expression “Commission on Women” was used in an official letter addressed by the Secretary General of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly Mohammad Reza Majidi to the Speaker of the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Ms. Sahiba Gafarova (No. SG/2023/05, Date: 6 February 2023).

We would like to remind that the Rules of Procedure contain section “IV. Standing Committees, Sub-Committees, Commissions and Subsidiary Bodies” providing for the creation of additional bodies of the Organization. Rule 15.1 prescribes that “in addition to the five Standing Committees; Political, Peace and Security, Social and Cultural, Economic and Sustainable Development, and Energy, the Plenary may set up other Standing Committees, Sub- Committees, Commissions and Subsidiary Bodies as it deems necessary to deal with any subject of interests.

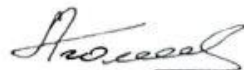
In accordance with this provision, we believe that the use of the term “Commission” is more appropriate. This term will make it possible to distinguish standing committees from a commission functioning to deal with subject of certain interests.

We would also like to remind that the draft resolution on the Commission on Women was circulated by the APA Secretariat to all delegations on August 8, 2023. We would be very grateful if the delegations that had the opportunity to consider the draft resolution in advance could submit amendments and comments on the substance of the document at the previous stages of discussion of the document.

In any case, we believe that all delegations are interested in adopting the draft resolution on the Commission on Women, which is dedicated to such an important issue.

We kindly ask you to take into account the above statements by the Azerbaijani delegation.

Sincerely,



Amina Aghazada

Head of the delegation of Azerbaijan to APA

## Attachment VII

The Association of Secretaries  
General of Arab Parliaments  
President Office



جمعية الأمناء العاميين  
للبرلمانات العربية  
مكتب الرئيس

4 May, 2023

**H.E. Dr. Mohammad Reza Majidi**

**Secretary General of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly**

Your Excellency,

I convey to you my greetings and best wishes. In the framework of fruitful and constructive collaboration between the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) and the Association of Secretaries General of Arab Parliaments (ASGAP), I would like to present to you the request of the ASGAP to join the APA as a member with observer status.

This is to further strengthen cooperation between the APA and the ASGAP.

Kindly consider our request, wishing you all success and health.

Please accept the assurances of our highest consideration,

**Dr. Ahmed bin Nasser Al Fadala**

**President of the Association of  
Secretaries General of Arab Parliaments**



ص. ب. 716 الكويت - الصفاة - الرمز البريدي 13008 - تليفون 97250111 - 00965 - فاكس 00965-22421948 - ايميل : asgap@kna.kw

## Attachment VIII



**SPEECH OF MR. ABDULKADİR EMİN ÖNEN, THE HEAD OF THE TURKISH  
DELEGATION  
OF THE ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (APA)  
AT THE CLOSING OF THE APA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING  
(28 November 2023, Antalya)**

Honorable Deputy Speakers of Parliaments,  
Honorable Parliamentarians,  
Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to start my words by greeting you on behalf of myself and my state. We have held our last meeting under Türkiye's term presidency. During our term presidency that we have carried out since 2017; we tried to make APA a platform where member states can discuss both their own and global problems. I see from our meeting held today that we have achieved significant success in this regard.

During our presidency, we have tried to make APA a more effective structure that plays a greater role in international politics. Through the committees within APA, we have tried to determine a road map for the issues we face on a global scale today. Consultations have been held on issues such as the establishment of the Asian Energy Market, improving the health and labor rights of refugees, protecting women and children, and protecting cultural assets, which are among the issues on our agenda.

Dear Guests,

We all know that today, the global center of gravity has shifted to Asia and a new global system is taking shape here. Therefore, the responsibility of Asian countries to overcome global challenges and uncertainties is also increasing. As APA members, the role and responsibilities of us parliamentarians have become more important.

We need to strengthen inter-parliamentary cooperation for peace, stability, people-centered development, rule of law and good governance in our region and countries.

In order to eliminate the challenges posed by this transformation we are experiencing and take advantage of the opportunities, we must strengthen connectivity in our region, create a climate of cooperation and dialogue, and continue our work to ensure peace and security.

I must emphasize that most of the problems we experience are common problems. Therefore, it is more important than ever that we come together and sincerely seek solutions to our problems in cooperation.

However, we live in such days that we cannot even prevent the massacre of innocent women and children, let alone trying to solve the problems through diplomacy.

We see how painful this situation is in Palestine, which has been struggling to exist under occupation and oppression for a long time. Today, unfortunately, innocent civilians in Gaza are losing their lives under indiscriminate heavy bombardment. As of today, the death toll has exceeded 14 thousand people. It is shameful for the international community that two thirds of them are women and children.

Depriving civilians of even their basic needs and forcing them to migrate is a clear violation of international humanitarian law. Moreover, targeting hospitals, schools, places of worship, refugee camps, whatever the pretext, is unacceptable under any circumstances. The total punishment of the people of Gaza by these attacks is a clear war crime.

We do not approve of attacks targeting civilians in any way, no matter on what grounds and from which side they come from. As Türkiye, we stand by the Palestinian people and oppose this cruelty.

Our President and Foreign Minister have been conducting intensive diplomacy to ensure a ceasefire, end the hostilities and ensure the uninterrupted delivery of humanitarian aid to Gaza.

Today's conflicts have shown that diplomacy is the most important way to solve international problems. Unfortunately, every attempt without resorting to diplomacy results in the loss of innocent lives.

I hope that after our term presidency, the APA will continue to be a platform where its members express their problems and seek solutions. In this way, the APA will gain a functional, effective and efficient structure as a platform where problems are solved through consultation and road maps and solution proposals for global problems are determined. As Türkiye, we have tried to

contribute to this mission of the APA during our term presidency. I believe we have taken important steps in this regard. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Azerbaijan, to whom we will hand over the chairmanship in January 2024, and to express my belief that the APA will carry out very important work under Azerbaijan's chairmanship.

I greet you with respect and thank you.