



Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs

25-28 September 2024

Moscow, Russia

Final Report

The Meeting of Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs was hosted on 25-28 September 2024 in Moscow by the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation.

Parliamentary delegations from following member countries participated in the meeting:

Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Cambodia, China, Iran, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkiye, UAE, Vietnam.

Special guest: IPA CIS

[\(Attachment I\)](#)

Opening Session:

At the opening session, the following dignitaries presented their remarks:

- H.E. Boris **CHERNYSHOV**, Deputy Chairman of the State Duma
- H.E. M.R. **MAJIDI**, APA Secretary General
- H.E. Mr. Sergey **RYABKOV**, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs
- H.E. Ms. Amine **AGHAZADA**, Representative of the APA term President and Head of delegation of Azerbaijan to the APA

[\(Attachment II\)](#)

**Laying of flowers at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier
at the Kremlin Wall:**

APA Delegations accompanied by Deputy Chairman of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, APA Vice-President Mr. B. CHERNYSHOV paid respect and laid flowers at the Tomb.

Standing Committee Session:

1. Adoption of the Agenda:

The Member Parliaments unanimously adopted the Draft Agenda.

([Attachment III](#))

2. Election of Bureau:

The committee approved the following parliamentarians as members of its Bureau:

-H.E. Mr. Boris CHERNYSHOV, Head of the delegation of Russian Federation, as **Chairperson**

-H.E. Mr. Vathana THUN, Head of delegation of Cambodia as **Vice-Chair**

-H.E. Mr. Syed Ali ZAFAR, Head of delegation of Pakistan as **Rapporteur**

3. Opening remarks by the Chairperson:

H.E. Mr. B.CHERNYSHOV, Chairperson of the meeting, presented his opening remarks and welcomed all participants on behalf of the Chairman of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation H.E. Mr. Vyacheslav VOLODIN.

4. Report by APA Secretary General:

Dr. MAJIDI, APA Secretary General reported on the latest development and outstanding issues of the Standing Committee.

[\(Attachment IV\)](#)

5. General Debate on Draft Resolutions:

Participants were called upon to express their general views on the content of interested draft resolutions before addressing the specific amendments. The following topics of importance were raised:

- Defending Asian values and National and Asian Identity
- Importance of Cultural and historical heritage and memory
- Emphasizing on the exchanging experience in cultural issues
- Re-enforcing cultural relations
- BRICS and APA: points of coincidence in cultural and social cooperation
- Culture, traditional values and social stability as key factors of security
- Protection of the institution of the family
- Stressing on combating against terrorism, smuggling narcotics etc.
- Gaza conflict, supporting Palestine and Palestinian people
- Cop29 and climate change issues
- Multipolar world and its effect on cultural diversity
- Calling on APA to support Genocide demarche against Israel in ICJ
- Support women issues while preserving cultural values
- Stressing on cultural values contrary to contemporary difficulties
- Peace and security and its relation with culture
- Supporting Cultural heritage
- Condemning recent terrorist attack on Lebanon
- Cultural diversities should bring us closer
- Education should be looked at in more details from the cultural aspect
- Representative of PNC who was unable to attend the meeting presented his views on latest unfortunate situation in Gaza and Lebanon by Phone.

[\(Attachment V\)](#)

6. Consideration of Draft Resolutions:

At the beginning of the consideration of this item, Deputy Secretary General presented the rule of conduct for addressing draft resolutions and related amendments. He stressed on the following:

- There are 14 draft resolutions under the consideration
- On each draft resolution we only address the amended Paragraphs
- The priority is given to the written amendments

- The Chair will rule on the final outcome of debates
- Be brief when presenting your views (i.e. in dictation speed)
- The titles of draft resolutions are to stay intact
- New draft resolution on “Multipolar” will be presented first

The following draft resolutions were updated and adopted by consensus:

1. Draft Resolution on Measures to Promote Cultural Diversity and Protect Cultural Heritage in Asia
2. Draft Resolution on Asian Integration through Information and Communication Technology
3. Draft Resolution on Collaboration on Health Equity in Asia
4. Draft Resolution on Asian Parliamentarians against Corruption
5. Draft Resolution of APA Women Parliamentarians
6. Draft Resolution on Promoting Dialogue and Harmony among Followers of World Religions
7. Draft Resolution on Legal and Legislative Cooperation in Combating the Smuggling of Cultural Items in Asia
8. Draft Resolution on Effective Cooperation in Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking in Asia
9. Draft Resolution on the Promotion of Quality Child and Youth Development for Sustainable Society in Asia
10. Draft Resolution on Ageing Society in Asia
11. Draft Resolution on Human Development in Asia
12. Draft Resolution on Tourism Cooperation in Asia
13. Draft Resolution on the Commission on Women (Deferred)

Note: After some debates among participants on the importance of this topic, the Chair referring to the necessity of Consensus decision making process in APA and called on the Committee to further discuss it in next meeting of Standing Committee.

14. Draft Resolution on Asian Parliamentarians in support of a more just multipolar world order reflecting its cultural and civilizational diversity
This new draft resolution was introduced by H.E Mr. Boris Chernyshov, Head of the delegation Russian Federation and Chairman of the SC meeting. The draft resolution was debated, amended and adopted by Committee.

[\(Attachment VI\)](#)

7. Situation of Women Parliamentarians in Asia:

APA by /Res/2014/16, decided to establish Special Committee of APA women parliamentarians under the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs.

1- Video was played on IV Eurasian Women's Forum in St Petersburg, Russia (18-20 September 2024). Deputy Chair of the Federation Council Committee on Science, Education and Culture H.E. Mrs. Ekaterina ALTABAEVA reported on the results of the Forum.

2- Chair of the State Duma Committee on Family Protection, Issues of Fatherhood, Motherhood and Childhood H.E. Mrs. Nina OSTANINA presented her statement on the defense of traditional values.

3- Lady parliamentarian from Bahrain presented her statement on Women situation.

[\(Attachment VII\)](#)

9. Any other Matters:

An informative and educative Seminar on Electronic Voting and Digital Services in the Government of Moscow was arranged for Participants attending the APA event. AI and IT Experts made presentations and answered questions by interested delegations.

10. Closing:

After consideration of all Agenda items, the meeting was closed.

Attachment I



**Asian Parliamentary Assembly
Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs
Moscow, Russia
25-28 September 2024**

List of Participants

№	COUNTRY	MEMBERS	POSITION
1.	AZERBAIJAN	Amina AGHAZADA Nafila RAHIMOVA	Head of Delegation Staff
2.	BAHRAIN	Ahmed ALSALLOM Ebtesam ALDALLAL Bader ALTAMIMI Hussain ALALAIWAT	Head of Delegation Member of Delegation Member of Delegation Staff
3.	CAMBODIA	Vathana THUN Nguon Socheat SOCHEAT Leakhena SOK Vann VIMOL	Head of Delegation Member of Delegation Staff Staff
4.	CHINA	XU Yongjun XIONG Yuanming ZHOU Huiyu YANG Yi CHEN Feng	Head of Delegation Member of Delegation Staff Staff Staff

		ZHANG Yuting	Staff
5.	IRAN	Peyman FALSAFI Leyla TAATI Amir Reza AHMADI KHOY Akbar KHORRAMI MASHKANI Kazem JALALI	Head of Delegation Staff Staff Staff Member of Delegation
6.	IRAQ	Jabbar AL-KINANI Haider AL-SELAMI Mohammed Rahdi AL- CHABAWI Adnan OMAIRI	Head of Delegation Member of Delegation Staff Staff
7.	KYRGYZSTAN	Bekmurza ERGESHOV	Head of Delegation
8.	LAOS	Kolakanh PHOMMAVONG Saliphone OUTHACHACK	Head of Delegation Staff
9.	PAKISTAN	Syed Ali ZAFAR Malik Muhammad Aamir DOGAR Muhammad Bilal BOKHARI	Head of Delegation Member of Delegation Staff
10.	PALESTINE	Ali FAYSAL	Head of Delegation
11.	QATAR	Khalid bin Ahmed AL-OBAIDAN Ahmad bin Hitmi AL- HITMI Nasser Mhana AL- SULAITI Ahmad AL-NOBI	Head of Delegation Member of Delegation Staff Staff
12.	RUSSIA	Boris CHERNYSHOV Petr TOLSTOY	Chairman Head of delegation

		Sardana AVKSENTYEVA Nikolay BUDUEV Vyacheslav DAMDINTSURUNOV Andrey GURULEV Nikolay KOLOMEITSEV Denis KRAVCHENKO Alexander REMEZKOV Vladimir SIPYAGIN Kazbek TAYSAEV Maria VASILKOVA Alexander Tarasov Dmitry Stepanov	Member of Delegation Member of Delegation Member of Delegation Member of Delegation Member of Delegation Member of Delegation Member of Delegation Member of Delegation Member of Delegation Staff Staff
13.	TAJKISTAN	Faizali IDIZODA Bakhtiyor AHMADZODA Talabshoh SHARIFZODA	Head of Delegation Member of Delegation Member of Delegation
14.	TÜRKIYE	Abdulkadir Emin ÖNEN Ömer ÖZMEN Vecdi GÜNDOĞDU Osman Cengiz ÇANDAR Murat HASTÜRK Harun İPEK	Head of Delegation Member of Delegation Member of Delegation Member of Delegation Staff Staff
15.	UAE	Mohamed ALALI Ahmed ALMHEIRI Shaikha ALTENEIJI	Head of Delegation Staff Staff
16.	VIETNAM	Anh Tuan LE Hoai Son BUI Pham The Cuong VU	Head of Delegation Member of Delegation Staff
17.	APA Secretariat	Mohammad Reza MAJIDI Kia TABATABAEE Mehdi GHASHGHAVI	Secretary General Deputy Secretary General Executive Deputy of Secretariat

		Mehdi MOLLAHOSSEINI	Senior Expert
18.	Special guest: IPA CIS (Interparliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States)	Denis ZHUK Maksimillian SELYUTIN	Member of Delegation Member of Delegation

Attachment II

**Greeting of the Chairman of the State Duma
of the Russian Federation H.E. Vyacheslav Volodin
to the participants of the meeting of the Standing Committee
of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly on Social and Cultural Affairs**

Moscow, 26 September 2024

Dear Colleagues!

Welcome to the meeting of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs, which is attended by 18 delegations – leading partners of the Russian Federation in the Asian region.

The Assembly fosters the construction of a just world order and a multipolar world. The APA contributes to strengthening inter-parliamentary cooperation, promotes the exchange of experience in the field of lawmaking and opinions on topics of the regional and global agenda.

You will have to discuss issues related to the preservation of national identity, historical memory, cultural heritage. This is especially relevant in conditions when they are trying to impose alien values on our peoples.

It is important to do everything to protect the institution of the family, one's culture, faith, and traditions.

I wish you constructive discussions and success.

**Address of the APA Vice-President,
Chairman of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs,
Deputy Chairman of the State Duma of the Russian Federation
H.E. Boris Chernyshov at the Opening Ceremony
Moscow, 26 September 2024**

Dear Colleagues,

Dear Members of Parliaments,

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am pleased to welcome you in Moscow on the occasion of the meeting of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs.

I am glad that we have gathered today in such a significant and symbolic place for us. In 6 years, this building in which we are located will be 250 years old – a quarter of a millennium, and every meter of this building is filled with history. In the 19th century, this building was called the "House of the Noble Assembly." For the last century, this place has been called the "House of Unions." So we are today – a gathering of states that are united not only by a common Asian space, but also by common values of respect for their history and their traditions, common challenges, common views on solving current issues that we will discuss today.

Russia attaches great importance to promoting interparliamentary cooperation within the framework of this Assembly.

I would like to thank the delegations for their support of the Russian application for the chairmanship of the Standing Committee and participation in today's meeting, as well as the APA Secretariat for assistance in holding the meeting. I wish good luck and success to the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan as the Chairman of the Assembly.

The APA is a unique organization – parliamentarians from more than 40 countries participate in its work. It is one of the important international

platforms for the exchange of opinions, ideas and experience on current issues on the global and regional agenda.

The APA has developed a solid potential in preserving the civilizational diversity, universal ideals, cultural heritage, and social development of our region.

Important resolutions are adopted here with the aim to ensure the interests of citizens of our countries in a wide range of areas.

Let me open our meeting and read out a greeting on behalf of the Chairman of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation H.E. V.V.Volodin.

The greeting of the Chairman of the State Duma is read out

In modern conditions, it is important for countries to preserve their identity as a key factor of security and sustainable development based on the principles of equality, interconnectedness, balance of interests, and the desire for cooperation.

It is precisely this creative attitude, the recognition of the world's civilizational diversity, the natural right of people to their own identity, respect for traditional spiritual and moral values, customs and religions that drives the global majority, especially the countries of the Global South.

We see how the process of forming a fair multipolar world order based on the sovereign equality of states is gaining momentum. At the same time, culture and social structure in their entirety are the foundations of security and the basis of such a world order.

The so-called globalist elites are turning these spheres into weapons of geopolitical intrigue, trying to displace and belittle the importance of national value systems, global religions, cultural traditions, and the historical memory of countries and entire regions.

The destructive nature of the line of the collective West is evident, which is not ready to accept the new realities and is trying to maintain its privileged position in the world through the establishment of a "rules-based order", an independent definition

of “universal values”, including through a distorted vision of human rights and gender aspects, the imposition of neoliberal attitudes and inhumane practices of "cancel culture". One of the goals of such a policy is the total destruction of the spiritual, cultural and social heritage of civilizations.

Heritage is the experience of generations that makes us stronger and contributes to the progress of the state and society. Today, in the development of democratic institutions, we try to use new technologies that make life easier for citizens. The program of our meeting includes a seminar on electronic voting and digital services in the capital of Russia - Moscow. This is the experience and developments that we would like to share with you.

When developing such innovations, we strive to ensure state security and society at the legislative level. That is to adopt laws which are aimed to counteract the undermining of our values and the weakening of national sovereignty. We are also ready to share this experience with you.

Russia is one of the most multinational countries in the world, and we are sincerely pleased to provide a platform for dialogue within the framework of today's meeting. We do not fight against any other values – we support our own. We know that constant interaction and mutual enrichment is the key to the development of cultures. We also know what a powerful creative force is in the unity of different cultures and traditions.

New challenges and threats in the context of the emerging multipolar world require the unification and consolidation of efforts by countries interested in the progress of humanity.

Many states that are currently part of the APA act as system-forming elements of multilateral platforms that set the parameters for the development of international cooperation, such as, for example, BRICS, Shanghai Cooperation Organization and ASEAN.

I would like to particularly highlight the role and mechanisms of parliamentary diplomacy when discussing ways to overcome global crises and issues of regional

cooperation, as well as in building interstate dialogue in the Asian space and in the broader Eurasian dimension.

Parliaments largely perform a stabilizing function for the entire architecture of international relations, giving it the necessary flexibility and predictability.

Such cooperation must remain outside of confrontational ideological and political attitudes, be built on the principles of mutual respect, equality and consideration of national interests, and be based on unconditional compliance with international law.

I am confident that today's discussions will be meaningful and productive. Our decisions taken at the meeting will serve to strengthen ties between our countries.

I wish all participants fruitful work, success and all the best.



**Asian Parliamentary Assembly
Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs**

**Moscow, Russian Federation
25-28 September 2024**

Opening Remarks by APA Secretary General

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

I am truly delighted and deeply honoured to address at this meeting of the APA Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs, held in the House of Unions, in the glorious city of Moscow.

On behalf of all the delegations present, staff of the APA Secretariat and my own behalf, I wish to express my sincere and heartfelt gratitude to H.E Mr. Boris **Chernyshov**, Deputy Chairman of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation and APA Vice-President. I also extend thanks to the other high-ranking officials of the Government and State Duma for the excellent organization of this meeting and their generous hospitality.

It is a privilege for the APA to have the State Duma of the Russian Federation, one of its most active and dedicated members, host and chair this significant meeting. I am confident that the State Duma's leadership marked by wisdom, commitment, and professionalism, will guide the Standing Committee in fulfilling its duties, allowing us to better serve the APA. We pledge our full support to ensure the success of this meeting, as we have done on previous occasions.

**Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Since our last gathering in Baku in February 2024, the situation in Gaza and across the Palestinian occupied territories has been deteriorated significantly, in the face of the silence of the international community failing to prevent genocide and ethnic cleansing by the Zionist regime. During this period, more than 41,000 innocent Palestinians have been brutally massacred, with over 75% of the victims being women and children. The APA has consistently and strongly condemned this brutality and has shown its unwavering support for the Palestinian people during these difficult times. As parliamentarians, we urge our governments to assist the Palestinian people in their legitimate struggle by all means available for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and to bring Zionist war criminals to justice.

Furthermore, we are deeply concerned about the recent terrorist attack by Zionist regime in Lebanon, which have led to tragic loss of life and injuries of several thousands of innocent civilians. we condemn this vicious act and call upon the international community to protect the people and to support the government of Lebanon through all available means.

In conclusion, I wish you all fruitful and constructive deliberations during this meeting of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs here in Moscow under the Chairmanship of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation.

Thank you very much for your attention.

**Report by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation
H.E. Sergey Ryabkov on the topic "The Chairmanship of the Russian
Federation in the BRICS " at the Opening Ceremony
of the Standing Committee of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly
on Social and Cultural Affairs
(Moscow, 26 September 2024)**

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to welcome the participants of the plenary session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly Standing Committee on Culture and Social Affairs.

As of January 1, the functions of the BRICS chairmanship were transferred to Russia. We strive to pay equal attention to all three main areas of cooperation in BRICS: politics and security, economics and finance, cultural and humanitarian contacts. Against the backdrop of the expansion of the association, the most important priority of Russia as the presiding country is to ensure the fastest and most harmonious integration of new participants into all existing BRICS cooperation mechanisms.

Cooperation in BRICS is close to the aims of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly. More and more countries in the Global South are showing interest to cooperate with BRICS as an effective tool for finding collective solutions to the most pressing problems of our time. Currently, the number of such countries already exceeds three dozen. In response to this request in accordance with the decision of last year's summit in Johannesburg (RSA), work continues on the modalities of the new category of BRICS "partner states" and the formation of a list of candidates for it, which are to be approved at the meeting of leaders in Kazan (Russia) in October 2024.

Over 170 events have already taken place within the framework of our Chairmanship out of more than 260 planned. Among them are the meeting of the High Representatives of the BRICS countries in charge of security issues (St. Petersburg, September 10-12), meetings of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs (Nizhny Novgorod, June 10-11), Culture (St. Petersburg, September 11), Labor and Employment (Sochi, September 9-10), Economics and Trade (Moscow,

July 26), Youth policy (Ulyanovsk, July 25), Agriculture (Moscow, June 28), the Environment (Nizhny Novgorod, June 28), Sports (Kazan, June 22-23), Tourism (Moscow, June 20-21) and others.

In the political sphere, we strive to increase coordination, primarily in the UN and other international platforms, which would make the voice of BRICS more resonant in universal and specialized intergovernmental organizations. We are working closely on the topic of combating terrorism, anti-drug and anti-corruption efforts.

Close attention is paid to the institutionalization of interaction between the parliaments of the union countries. The 10th BRICS Parliamentary Forum was held in St. Petersburg on July 11-12, in which, along with parliamentarians from the association's member states, representatives of the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly and the Chairman of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Speaker of the National Assembly of Tanzania T. Exon took part. The forum participants confirmed their interest in strengthening cooperation, including between women and young parliamentarians, which was reflected in the joint statement adopted following the forum.

On April 11-12, the first meeting of the chairmen of the committees on international affairs of the parliaments of the BRICS states was held in Moscow on Russian initiative, during which plans were outlined to strengthen the foreign policy component of the interaction of the BRICS countries along legislative lines.

The most important task remains to increase the role of BRICS states in the international monetary and financial system, assistance in the transformation of international settlement mechanisms, and the development of interbank cooperation. In this regard, work is underway to improve the Contingent Reserve Pool, primarily in terms of the use of currencies alternative to the US dollar.

Following the aforementioned meeting of the BRICS Ministers of Economy and Foreign Trade, it was possible to adopt a number of documents, including the BRICS Declaration on the World Trade Organization, the Principles for Facilitating Trade in Agriculture, the Statement on Trade Measures Related to the

Environment and Climate, the Framework Agreement on BRICS Cooperation in the Sphere of Special Economic Zones, and others.

For the first time, the Forum “The BRICS Climate Agenda in Current Conditions” and a high-level dialogue with the participation of relevant ministers of the BRICS countries were organized (Moscow, August 29-30), following which a Framework for Cooperation in Combating Climate Change and Sustainable Development was adopted, covering issues of a just transition, prevention of climate change and adaptation to its consequences,

A mechanism for cooperation in the field of transport was launched – the first meeting was held at the ministerial level (St. Petersburg, June 6). Cooperation was initiated through geological services, the first meeting of the heads of relevant departments of the union states was held (Moscow, July 15-17).

Interaction in the healthcare sector is actively developing. The BRICS Working Group on Nuclear Medicine was established (the first meeting was held in Moscow on February 13), the first BRICS Nuclear Medicine Forum was organized (St. Petersburg, June 20-21).

Traditionally, high dynamics are maintained in the cultural and humanitarian dimension. The 8th BRICS Film Festival was held in Moscow on April 21-23, with the participation of filmmakers from all countries of the association. During the period From June 12 to 23, the BRICS Sports Games were held in Kazan for the first time in an open format, in which athletes from more than 90 countries took part; the program was designed for 27 sports.

A number of events were organised with the participation of representatives of civil society in our countries, including the Academic Forum (Moscow, 22-24 May) and the Civil Forum (Moscow, 3-4 July). Interaction between cities and municipalities is developing: the International Municipal Forum (Moscow, August 27-28) and the traditional Forum of Sister Cities and Municipalities (Nizhny Novgorod, July 9-10) were held.

We are approaching the apogee of the Russian year in BRICS – the XVI summit of the association in Kazan. Its program includes a separate meeting with

the participation of the heads of developing countries in the “outreach”/“BRICS plus” format. We continue active work on the substantive content of the leaders’ meeting.

Thank you for your attention.

**Speech of the Representative of the APA Term President and Head of the delegation
of Azerbaijan to the APA, Ms. Amina Aghazada**

Meeting of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs

Moscow, Russia

25-28 September 2024

**Honorable Chair,
Honorable Secretary General,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen**

First of all, I would like to note that it is a great pleasure for me to participate in the meeting of the Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs, which is taking place in Moscow.

I am very glad to be with you in the beautiful city of Moscow.

I also would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation and its leadership for organizing the meeting.

I believe that with the participation of parliamentarians from all over Asia, our meeting will eventually lead to productive work and will be crowned with real results.

Dear Participants,

Currently, the dynamics of the processes affecting the architecture of the modern system of international relations is unprecedented. Fundamental changes are taking place in the system of international relations. Along with the ongoing processes, the number of challenges threatening security is increasing.

The growing number of international conflicts, terrorism, uncontrolled migration, food and energy problems, epidemics of deadly diseases, and environmental problems affect the vital interests of the entire population of the planet and require the joint efforts of all states of the world to solve them. Of course, the Asian region is also negatively affected by mentioned problems. In these circumstances, it is difficult to overestimate the role of international organizations that are capable of accumulating the efforts of the countries of the region to resolve existing problems.

Unfortunately, one of the most pressing problems in the region is the situation in Gaza.

We are deeply concerned about the continued tension in the conflict zone. We call for an urgent resolution of the conflict. We will continue to support the efforts to achieve a just,

lasting, and peaceful solution to the issue of Palestine in all its aspects in line with fundamental norms and principles of international law.

Cooperation with the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, which promotes strengthening Asian solidarity and development of cooperation in various fields, is extremely important for all of us. The APA is the only organization that unites Asian countries at the inter-parliamentary level and is a unique platform for coordinating our multilateral efforts.

The Organization also contributes to the formation of a common position on important international issues based on the mutual interests of states, the promotion of joint initiatives, the development of dialogue and cooperation between the parliaments of Asia in various fields.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Along with the security challenges mentioned above, the currently pressing problem of global warming should be particularly noted.

Climate change is the most serious threat, and this process is happening even faster than we expected. Since the 1990s, there has been a process of coordinating the efforts of all states to reduce carbon dioxide emissions into the atmosphere, which destroy the ozone layer around the Earth and create the effect of global warming.

No corner of the globe is immune from the devastating effects of climate change. Warming can cause serious consequences on a global scale.

The UN Climate Change Conference (COP) has become a fundamental platform for states to coordinate their actions. It enables UN member states to reach agreements on combating climate change.

As you know, this year in November, COP 29 will be held in Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan has been chosen as the host of COP29 with unanimous support of international community. This is the acknowledgement of Azerbaijan's commitment to supporting international efforts in the field of climate change.

Experts from all over the world will gather in our country to discuss one of the most pressing issues of our time – climate change and its impact on our planet. They will discuss possible solutions to the problems associated with global warming, share their research and experience, and jointly develop strategies to mitigate the consequences of this process and adapt to new conditions.

We are confident that this conference will be an important step towards a sustainable and environmentally friendly future.

In the framework of COP29 the Parliamentary Meeting is being jointly organized by the IPU and the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan on November 16-17, 2024 in Baku,

Azerbaijan. As parliamentarians, your attendance at this important global meeting would be highly valuable.

Dear Participants,

Today, during the meeting of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs draft resolutions on many current issues in the Asian region will be discussed. The subjects such as promotion of cultural diversity and protection of cultural heritage, Asian integration through information and communication technologies, advancement of interfaith dialogue among world religions, collaboration among the fields of law and legislation in the fight against smuggling of cultural resources, cooperation in the field of tourism and others, are of great importance for the region as a whole.

It is noteworthy that the previous meeting of this Committee was held in Baku in September last year (in Baku on September 21, 2023).

During the Committee Meeting in Baku, we carried out intensive and effective work. A fruitful exchange of views was carried out among the Meeting participants. The draft resolutions submitted for discussion were reviewed, discussed and adopted.

At this meeting, the Azerbaijani delegation presented a resolution on women, which was also thoroughly discussed and adopted.

Taking into account the importance of this resolution, we will continue to discuss this document during our meeting.

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

Today we also have intensive work ahead of us within our Committee. I would like to note that the resolutions discussed at the meeting of the Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs directly affect people's lives. Resolutions affecting such areas as medicine, tourism, promotion of quality child and youth development, women rights are not abstract cooperation. It is cooperation in specific areas, the results of which will be reflected in people's daily lives. Such cooperation is the most effective.

In this regard, I wish all of us fruitful discussions that will be aimed at strengthening cooperation.

Thank you for your attention!

Attachment III

Asian Parliamentary Assembly

Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs



ГОСУДАРСТВЕННАЯ ДУМА
Федерального Собрания Российской Федерации



Moscow, Russia
25-28 September 2024

Draft Agenda

(9/16/2024 by APA Secretariat)

- 1- Adoption of the Agenda
- 2- Election of the Bureau
- 3- Opening Remarks by the Chairperson
- 4- Report by APA Secretary General
- 5- General Debate on Draft Resolutions
- 6- Consideration of Draft Resolutions on:
 1. Measures to Promote Cultural Diversity and Protect Cultural Heritage in Asia
 2. Asian Integration through Information and Communication Technology
 3. Collaboration on Health Equity in Asia
 4. Asian Parliamentarians Against Corruption
 5. APA Women Parliamentarians
 6. Promoting Dialogue and Harmony among Followers of World Religions
 7. Legal and Legislative Cooperation in Combating the Smuggling of Cultural Items in Asia
 8. Effective Cooperation in Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking in Asia
 9. The Promotion of Quality Child and Youth Development for Sustainable Society in Asia
 10. Ageing Society in Asia
 11. Human Development in Asia
 12. Tourism Cooperation in Asia
 13. The Commission on Women
 14. Asian Parliamentarians in support of a more just multipolar world order reflecting its cultural and civilizational diversity (New, Russia)
- 7- Situation of Women Parliamentarians in Asia
- 8- Any other Matters

ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AND CULTURAL
AFFAIRS



ГОСУДАРСТВЕННАЯ ДУМА
Федерального Собрания Российской Федерации



Moscow, Russia
24-29 September 2024

PROGRAMME OF WORK

24 September
(Tuesday)

- Arrival and accommodation of participants
in the Hotel “Plaza Garden Moscow WTC”
(on a separate schedule, 12, Krasnopresnenskaya emb.)

25 September
(Wednesday)

- Arrival and accommodation of participants
in the Hotel “Plaza Garden Moscow WTC”
(on a separate schedule, 12, Krasnopresnenskaya emb.)

26 September
(Thursday)

- 10:20** - Joint transfer to the House of Unions
(B. Dmitrovka Str., 1, entrance No. 5)
- Welcome coffee break
(2nd floor, enfilade)
- Participants take their seats in the hall
- 11:00-14:00** - **Plenary meeting of the Standing Committee of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly on Social and Cultural Affairs**
(2nd floor, Column Hall)
- Opening Ceremony*
Family photo
- 14:00-14:50** - Buffet
(2nd floor, Banquet Hall)
- 14:00-15:00** - **Lunch of the Bureau of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly** *(Members of the Bureau only)*
- ***Time is reserved for bilateral meetings***
- Joint transfer to Zaryadye Park
- 15:30-16:30** - **Visit to Zaryadye Park**
(Varvarka Str.)
- Sightseeing tour and visit to the Mediacenter*
- 16:30** - Joint transfer to the Hotel
- 17:30** Joint transfer to the reception venue

**18:00-
19:30** **Official reception in honor of the participants
of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly**
(3rd floor, October Hall)

- Joint transfer to the hotel

**27 September
(Friday)**

- Joint transfer to the National Memorial of Military Glory
(Aleksandrovskiy Sad)

10:00 - **Laying of flowers at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier
at the Kremlin Wall**

*Accompanied by Deputy Chairman of the State Duma
of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation,
Chairman of the APA SC, Vice-President of the APA
Mr. B.Chernyshov*

**11:00-
13:00** - **Plenary meeting of the Standing Committee**
*(continuation of the sitting, devoted among other issues
to traditional and sovereign values)*
(2nd floor, Column Hall)

**13:00-
14:00** - Buffet
(2nd floor, Banquet Hall)

- ***Time is reserved for bilateral meetings***

- Joint transfer to the seminar venue

**14:30-
15:30** - **Seminar “Electronic voting and Moscow digital services”**
(Government of Moscow)

- Joint transfer to the Kremlin

16:00- - **Visit to the Moscow Kremlin**

18:00

- Joint transfer to the Restaurant

18:30 - **Unofficial dinner on occasion of the Meeting
of the APA Standing Committee on Social and Cultural
Affairs**

(B. Dmitrovka Str., 5/6, Restaurant "Capo")

28-29 September

(Saturday)

- Departure of delegations from Moscow
(on a separate schedule)

Attachment IV



Asian Parliamentary Assembly Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs

**Moscow, Russian Federation
25-28 September 2024**

Report by the APA Secretary General

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

It is both a pleasure and an honor for me to address at this meeting of the APA Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs, held in the vibrant House of Unions, in the glorious city of Moscow.

On behalf of all the delegations present, staff of the APA Secretariat and my own behalf, I wish to express my sincere and heartfelt gratitude to H.E Mr. Boris **Chernyshov**, Deputy Chairman of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation and APA Vice-President. I also extend thanks to the other high-ranking officials of the Government and State Duma for the excellent organization of this meeting and their generous hospitality.

It is a privilege for the APA to have the State Duma of the Russian Federation, one of its most active and dedicated members, host and chair this significant meeting. I am confident that the State Duma's leadership marked by wisdom, commitment, and professionalism, will guide the Standing Committee in fulfilling its duties, allowing us to better serve the APA. We pledge our full support to ensure the success of this meeting, as we have done on previous occasions.

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

Let me begin my report with a brief summary of the latest developments in the Committee's work and raising some important points regarding the outlooks of APA members in this field.

As you may recall, in the Committee Meeting held in September 2023 in Baku under the chairmanship of the late Madam **Pashayeva**, Head of the Delegation of Azerbaijan, we engaged in extensive and fruitful discussions. During that session, we adopted 13 draft resolutions, including the new draft resolution on "Commission on Women." At the first Executive Council meeting in November 2023 in Antalya, this resolution was deferred to the current meeting for further review due to its importance.

At this meeting, we also have a new and timely draft resolution proposed by the Russian Federation titled "Asian Parliamentarians in Support of a More Just Multipolar World Order Reflecting its Cultural and Civilizational Diversity." Today, in total there are 14 draft resolutions before the Committee for consideration.

Dear Colleagues,

The wide range of topics in the agenda of this Standing Committee highlights the importance of social and cultural affairs for APA member parliaments. Accordingly, our discussions cover crucial issues such as cultural diversity, cultural heritage, ICT, health equity, anti-corruption, women parliamentarians, interfaith dialogue, cultural heritage smuggling, illicit drug trafficking, aging societies, human development, and tourism cooperation.

In recent Standing Committee meetings, several additional areas of interest were raised, by the APA delegations which I believe should be more prominent in our future discussions. These issues include:

- Placing greater emphasis on cultural cooperation, especially in fostering the next generation.
- Strengthening interfaith dialogue and promoting cultural diversity.
- Drafting a resolution to prevent blasphemy against the sacred values of our societies.

- Introducing new draft resolutions rather than revisiting previously adopted ones.
- Hoping for increasing participation of women and youth parliamentarians in APA meetings.
- Expanding relations with organizations like BRICS to benefit from their best practices.
- Giving more attention to recommendations within Standing Committee resolutions, such as establishing an award to promote cultural diversity, creating a working group to consider an APA Plan of Action on Combating Corruption, and forming an Asian Virtual Parliament.

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

In conclusion, I wish you all fruitful and constructive deliberations during this meeting of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs here in Moscow under the Chairmanship of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation.

Thank you for your attention.

Attachment V



Parliamentary Group of the Kingdom of Bahrain

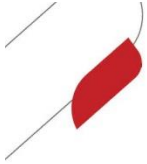
**Speech of His Excellency MP Ahmed Sabah
Alsalloom**

**Vice-President of Asian Parliamentary
Assembly (APA)**

**at the meetings of the Standing Committee
on Social and Cultural Affairs**

Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA)

Moscow – Russia



**In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful and
Peace be upon Prophet Mohammed and his Companions**

**Your Excellency (In case the Speaker of the
Russian Federal Assembly or his Representative is present),**

**Your Excellency Mr. Chairman of the Standing
Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs, Chairperson of the
meeting,**

**Your Excellency Mr. Mohammed Reza Majidi, Secretary General
of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA),**

**Your Excellencies respected Members of the Committee,
Distinguished attendees,**

Peace, Mercy and Blessings of God be upon you,

**At the beginning of my speech, I would like to express my sincere
gratitude and appreciation to the Russian Federal Assembly for its
generous hosting and wonderful organization of this meeting,
which represents a real model of mutual respect and rich
cooperation between the parliaments of our beloved continent. Our
presence here today in Moscow, the heart of history and the soul of
civilization, exceeds being a protocol meeting to be a sincere
expression of our desire to promote a strong and sustainable
partnership between Asian Countries based on common principles
and noble goals.**

**Moscow is considered a symbol of creativity and innovation thanks
to its great historical heritage and its renewed cultural legacy. The
strong relations between Russia and the Kingdom of Bahrain
reflects a real embodiment of these values, as the two countries
cooperate closely in many fields. We, as parliamentarians, are**

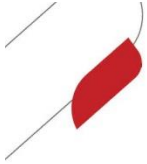
proud of this cooperation which opens new horizons for sustainable cooperation and contributes to supporting peace and stability in the entire region.

I am also pleased to pay tribute to Her Excellency Ms. President of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA), His Excellency the Secretary General, and His Excellency Chairman of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs for the sincere efforts they are making through this important parliamentary platform which represents a major pillar in achieving the aspirations of our people towards strengthening the Asian Unity, and we, in the Kingdom of Bahrain, value this giving and support it by all available means.

Brothers and sisters,

Solidarity and unity among the Parliaments of Asia are not just slogans that we talk about, but rather are necessary foundations to achieve stability and development in our region, that's because our people look to us to consolidate this unity and activate it on the ground, especially in light of what we are witnessing from increasing global challenges and especially in the Economic, Security, Health and Environmental fields.

In this context, Asian Parliaments come to play a decisive role in building dialogue bridges and enhancing cooperation between our countries. The challenges we face know no limits, and no country can confront them effectively on its own. Rather, we need to unify efforts, exchange experiences and formulate joint strategies based on integration and solidarity. Parliament is not just a legislative institution, but rather a driving force for positive change and reform in our communities.



Your Excellency the President

Your Excellencies Members of Parliaments

The Kingdom of Bahrain, under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of the country may Allah protect him, gives utmost importance to enhancing the role of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) in serving the common issues of people of Asia. Therefore, we are committed to effective attendance and constructive contribution in all meetings of the Assembly, through its Executive council and various committees. This commitment stems from our deep belief that the Asian power lies in its unity, and that concerted efforts between us is the best way to achieve comprehensive development and common prosperity.

Distinguished attendees,

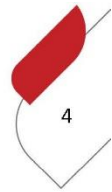
In this context and on the occasion of holding today's meeting of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs to approve some of the important resolutions, the Parliamentary Group of the Kingdom of Bahrain made some amendments on some of the draft resolutions to emphasize the importance of the contents of those drafts and to shed light on the most urgent issues.

These amendments reflect our keenness to provide practical contributions that contribute to developing and activating the Asian Parliamentary work in a way that benefits all parties.

Distinguished attendees,

Today we stand at a crossroads, where the global conditions force us to be more interconnected and united. The Asian unity is not an option, but rather a necessity in light of the accelerating international and regional conditions. This unity is what will provide us with power to face the future challenges whether it is Economic, environmental or social.





We cannot achieve sustainable development and build strong and stable communities unless we work together and adopt an approach based on real cooperation and mutual partnership.

The power of Asian Parliaments lies in their ability to communicate and coordinate continuously and overcome the differences for the benefit of our people and for a better future for the coming generations; a future full of peace, stability and prosperity.

To conclude, I renew my gratitude to all the distinguished attendees for attending and participating in this significant meeting. I hope that our discussions will result in resolutions that strengthen unity and establish a brighter future for our Asian continent.

Peace, Mercy and Blessings of God be upon you.

**THE ADDRESS OF H.E. MR. ABDULKADIR EMIN ÖNEN,
HEAD OF TURKISH DELEGATION TO ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY
ASSEMBLY (APA)**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE MEETING OF APA STANDING
COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

(25-26 September 2024, Moscow - Russian Federation)

Honorable Chairperson,

**Distinguished Parliamentarians of Asian countries, Dear
Secretary General,**

It is a great pleasure for me to meet and address you at the meeting of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly.

First of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the host country, the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation and Mr. Boris Chernyshov, Deputy Chairman of State Duma for the generous hospitality, to the chair-in-office Milli Majlis of Azerbaijan, and the Secretariat of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly for the excellent organization.

I would also like to thank all the member parliamentarians who participated in this meeting to promote inter-parliamentary dialogue throughout Asia.

I'm excited to be in Moscow for our Commission Meeting. Türkiye and Russia, as neighboring countries, has very close relations and it's a pleasure for me to witness the remarkable progress in our relations over recent years. Our growing partnership is evident not only in the increased interactions at the inter-parliamentary level but also in the strengthening ties between different branches of our governments and respective heads of state.

The current official visit of Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye, H.E. Mr. Numan KURTULMUŞ to Russian Federation is a clear and strong demonstration of the value we attach to our inter-parliamentary relations. Yesterday Speaker KURTULMUŞ addressed at the Plenary Session of the Federation Council and

underlined our determination to strengthen ties and promote deeper cooperation between our legislative bodies.

Distinguished Participants,

In the 21st century, whole World is facing neoteric challenges and crisis. Armed conflicts around the globe make contemporary challenges even more formidable. At the moment, all kinds of armed conflicts are going on in different parts of Asian continent.

The Palestinian people are suffering the most brutal attacks among conflicts with unthinkable levels of civilian casualties, including women and children. Before our eyes, the Palestinian people are being subjected to genocide by Israel. More than 50 thousand people were killed and thousands of them are still under the rubble. We are confronted with a profound and troubling issue that demands the attention and empathy of all humanity.

First and foremost, protecting the lives of the civilian population is a priority that can not be omitted in any conflict. Palestinian people face inexplicable cruelties. Whereas the lives of civilian population is the most important issue in Palestine, there is also the ongoing problem of preserving their historical and cultural artifacts. The protection and preservation of these artifacts are vital not only for those directly affected but also for our shared human heritage.

The human suffering and devastation we witness in conflict zones are deeply distressing. It is essential for us, as a global community, to acknowledge the gravity of this situation and work towards a resolution that prioritizes the protection of all civilians and all treasures of humanity and upholds the principles of justice and humanitarianism.

The ongoing indiscriminate Israeli bombardments have destroyed a great deal of cultural heritage in Gaza City. As of 22nd of July, 2024 UNESCO has confirmed that 64 sites have been damaged since 7th of October, 2023. It is shame and disgrace of Israel to deliberately destroy the Great Mosque of Gaza which is more than 1.000 thousand years old. Besides, the historic Greek Orthodox Church of St. Porphyrius was also destroyed by two separate bombings that also killed tens of Palestinians. The unique cultural identity of the people in Gaza, where Christians and Muslims have

historically coexisted, is being threatened. Israel's actions have targeted significant cultural elements of this coexistence, leading to erosion of the Palestinian community's identity.

Roads can be rebuilt, factories can be rebuilt, but historical wonders can only be imitated. Safeguarding both tangible and intangible cultural heritages is crucial in preserving cultural identity and world heritage during the times of conflict.

Honorable Friends,

Türkiye has always stood by the Palestinians in their struggle for free Palestinian state. As a reflection of this sound will, H.E. Mr. Mahmoud ABBAS, President of State of Palestine addressed at the Plenary of Grand National Assembly of Türkiye on August 15, 2024. The plenary Session was one of the most crowded sessions in the history of the Parliament and that representatives of all political parties with groups in the Parliament attended the session. The Grand National Assembly of Türkiye showed its position on the Palestinian cause at every step. We do our best to end the division among the groups in Palestine as well.

Israel's brutal attacks on Lebanon in recent days threaten peace in the region and it is effort to drag entire region into chaos. It is imperative that all institutions responsible for maintaining international peace and security, especially the United Nation Security Council, as well as the international community, take the necessary measure without delay.

On the other hand, Türkiye submitted the application to the International Court of Justice to intervene in the genocide case filed against Israel. We urge all APA member states to support this case and intervene the lawsuit. By doing so, we will reaffirm our commitment to human dignity and justice.

Especially at the 149th General Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, we will welcome all of your support on the

emergency items for Palestine on behalf of the common conscience of humanity.

Asia as a continent, which has witnessed the history of humanity, is home to many different cultures. This diversity not merely as a collection of differences but as a profound source of strength and enrichment. It is our firm belief that the societies of Asia should coexist with mutual respect and tolerance, embracing the unique contributions of each cultures.

Dear Colleagues,

Democracy is a universal ideal that empowers individuals and societies, ensuring that every voice is heard and valued. Parliaments are the very foundation of democracy and democratic governance.

Türkiye is ready to continue its effort and collaborate with all partners to strengthen democracy worldwide and ensure the equal and meaningful involvement and leadership of women as well as disadvantaged segments of society in political and public life.

Parliamentarianism in Türkiye has deep roots. As a country that was a pioneer of Women's suffrage, we highly value and promote inclusive democratic practices all around the globe. Strengthening democracy also requires us to confront the rising trend of racism, hate, hate speech, intolerance, xenophobia, discrimination and Islamophobia with resolute action based on respect for all individuals. As an outstanding example of our determined fight against these challenges, we launched Alliance of Civilizations in 2005. We are pleased to see that since then, the initiative has become one of the most prominent peace initiatives of our times.

In order to achieve the collective ascent of our continent and its people we need to develop cooperation in every field, especially in the exchange of democratic experiences, as well as in economic, commercial and legal fields.

I hope that our discussions and consultations today on the draft proposals, particularly on Cultural Diversity and Heritage will raise awareness and contribute the efforts to revise and better the legislations in our respective parliaments.

Thank You.

سخنرانی آقای دکتر فلسفی (روز اول)

**Honourable parliamentarians of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

I would like to express my pleasure at participating in the meeting of the Permanent Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, and I extend my gratitude to the State Duma of Russia for its hospitality and for successfully hosting this meeting. I also wish to thank the esteemed Secretary-General and his colleagues in the secretariat, as well as the honourable representatives of the parliaments of participating countries in this gathering.

At the outset of my remarks, I would like to convey my condolences on behalf of the Parliament, Government, and people of Iran regarding the recent terrorist incident and crimes committed by the Zionist regime against Lebanon. The brutal attack by this ruthless regime on Lebanon once again demonstrates that the Zionists continue to violate international laws and regulations, infringing upon Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity, while adopting an inhumane approach that targets innocent civilians. Their actions aim to drag war into the region, attempting to downplay their defeat in the "Al-Aqsa Storm" battle.

Honourable parliamentarians,

The cultural and social development of each Member State of the Assembly is viable only when its security and territorial integrity are ensured. A country under the threat of aggression and terrorist crimes cannot envision a stable future in social and cultural domains. The current situation in Palestine vividly illustrates this tragedy: an oppressed people whose land has been drenched in blood by Zionist aggressors, depriving them of their most fundamental human right, that is, right to life. How can we expect social and cultural development for Palestinians under these circumstances, especially when the world is witnessing genocide, with numerous Palestinian civilians—many of whom are women, children, and the elderly—being killed or injured? Displacement, destruction of social and cultural assets, insufficient access to medicine and food, severe vulnerability

among students and university communities, and the inability for over 600,000 individuals to continue their education are all threats and unprecedented calamities that have occurred in human society over the past century.

On the other hand, the murderous Zionist regime seeks to erase symbols of Palestinian resistance and obliterate anti-occupation and anti-colonial rhetoric in Asia. This rhetoric has long served as a model for Asian children and heroes such as martyr Qassem Soleimani, a national and international figure in the resistance front; Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, commander of the resistance front; and martyr Ismail Haniyeh, Prime Minister of the Palestinian government and head of Hamas's political bureau, along with other martyrs who have inspired them.

Esteemed participants,

In today's rapidly changing world, intercultural communication is regarded as one of the essential sources of soft power in development processes. In this context, and for the purpose of cultural synergy, while emphasizing similarities and addressing common concerns, we must redirect cultural differences towards cultural convergence and synergy while preserving cultural identity. This requires a comprehensive perspective simultaneously on both challenges and opportunities ahead so that we can maximally utilise these capacities to create a win-win environment for our countries.

It is evident that intercultural relations aimed at achieving common interests are a vital pathway to sustainable development, and that the path to progress across all sectors—economic, scientific, educational, political—passes directly or indirectly through culture. Enhancing cooperation in areas such as tourism, higher education, science, arts, health care, sports, information technology, and communications serves as tools for achieving cultural objectives.

We as the APA Member States must strengthen our relations for the benefit of our peoples and countries. At the same time, shared cultural and social elements —and those many different ones — are significant factors in establishing strong ties between our governments and peoples. In this

regard, developing mutual tourism cooperation is seen as an effective means of connecting our peoples. As parliamentarians, we should facilitate and expedite this path through our legal support and oversight. Agreements aimed at enhancing cooperation in various cultural and social fields — such as providing maximum facilities for issuing tourism visas or visa waiver among Member States — could be effective and facilitating solutions in this regard. Other suggestions can be implemented as well, such as holding cultural festivals; exchange of knowledge and experiences through exchange of students; holding training workshops on arts, handicrafts and language; and founding and boosting joint cultural institutions aimed at promoting and strengthening the culture and language of the Member States.

These solutions can contribute to creating a rich and dynamic cultural environment among APA members and can lead to enhancing the social and cultural relations between nations. Undoubtedly, through enacting laws that facilitate these communications and through overseeing the implementation of these laws, the Asian parliaments would be able to take highly effective measures in this regard.

Additionally, we must leverage our shared cultural and social capacities as supportive tools in confronting common challenges such as combating terrorism, extremism, drug trafficking, cultural heritage smuggling, and spread of various forms of violence that plague today's world.

Dear colleagues,

The horizon for cultural and social development in Asia requires justice promotion and creating conditions for sustainable growth across various sectors such as population, healthcare, education, preservation of cultural heritage, and expansion of information and communications technology. The global struggle against unilateral coercive measures that violate international law that obstruct sustainable peace, comprehensive development, and promotion of healthcare and education should be put on the agenda of all member parliaments. This endeavour necessitates significant effort achievable through collaboration among representatives from participating delegations. Avoiding unilateralism, promoting balanced

multilateralism, and combating bullying by certain irresponsible global actors can be realised through collective action by all parliamentarians.

Esteemed attendees,

The Islamic Republic of Iran — rich in longstanding history, culture, and civilization with valuable social-cultural assets encompassing diverse subcultures — has consistently sought to create suitable grounds for dialogue and synergy among societies while benefiting from cultural, social and civilizational elements and to take constructive steps towards enhancing interactions and resolving regional and international challenges.

Despite facing illegal unjust sanctions imposed by Western countries, Iran has emerged as a leader in social and cultural cooperation across Asia. A bright outlook for this ancient continent is attainable through collaboration among Asian parliaments. The Islamic Parliament of Iran has passed various laws concerning cultural and social matters, including the law of protection of family and population youthfulness, the law of protection of unsupervised and ill-supervised children and adolescents, the law of reducing working hours for employed women with specific conditions, the law of safeguarding the rights of disabled individuals, the law of prevention of crime, etc. It also voices its readiness to exchange experiences and further enhance international cultural dialogues toward mutual benefits among Member States.

In conclusion I hope this meeting, which brings together concerned parliamentarians addressing cultural social issues, will assist Asian communities so that APA Member States, while maintaining their national and cultural identities, could utilise cultural diplomacy and intercultural dialogue in order to witness peaceful coexistence regionally and internationally and de-escalation of tensions.

Thank you for your attention.

Esteemed representatives of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Dear colleagues,

The draft resolution from the Women's Commission of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly currently before you could have been a progressive step towards achieving the Assembly's noble goals regarding women's advancement if — instead of using Western models and the ambiguous language of international institutions in an unjust and unbalanced manner — it had presented a text that considered the status of women in Muslim and Eastern countries, where the roles of women and family are strong and inviolable. The current text of the Resolution is deficient in various aspects and cannot comprehensively address women's issues in the Member States of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly. The shortcomings faced by this text diminish its credibility as a foundation and action plan for such a commission. The proposal put forward by the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran is to remove discussions regarding this text from the agenda based on the following reasons:

- Ambiguous definition of the concept of woman and use of Western terminology emphasizing “gender” instead of “woman”, which could lead to future disagreements regarding the implementation mechanisms for parliamentary delegations.
- The Western rhetoric employed in this Resolution does not facilitate constructive cooperation between Asian parliamentarians and legislators. The current text is an employment of Western rhetoric without regard for women and their characteristics within Asian, Islamic, and Eastern societies.
- The lack of precise and consensus-based definitions concerning the structure and functions of the Commission will lead to future disagreements regarding its objectives and functions.
- Prior to drafting such a Resolution, there is a need for comprehensive and effective discussions about an accurate definition of women's issues, justice for women, and the roles and functions of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly concerning women. Without precise definitions of concepts and shared objectives, consensus on no text will be achievable.
- It is recommended that a working group consisting of countries that intend to present modifications and proposals regarding the content of this Resolution be formed to reach a consensus on its content.

The parliamentary delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Attachment VI

Draft Resolutions of the Standing Committees on Social and Cultural Affairs

1. Draft Resolution on Measures to Promote Cultural Diversity and Protect Cultural Heritage in Asia
2. Draft Resolution on Asian Integration through Information and Communication Technology
3. Draft Resolution on Collaboration on Health Equity in Asia
4. Draft Resolution on Asian Parliamentarians Against Corruption
5. Draft Resolution on APA Women Parliamentarians
6. Draft Resolution on Promoting Dialogue and Harmony among Followers of World Religions
7. Draft Resolution on Legal and Legislative Cooperation in Combating the Smuggling of Cultural Items in Asia
8. Draft Resolution on Effective Cooperation in Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking in Asia
9. Draft Resolution on the Promotion of Quality Child and Youth Development for Sustainable Society in Asia
10. Draft Resolution on Ageing Society in Asia
11. Draft Resolution on Human Development in Asia
12. Draft Resolution on Tourism Cooperation in Asia
13. Draft Resolution on the Commission on Women (Deferred)
14. Draft Resolution on Asian Parliamentarians in support of a more just multipolar world order reflecting its cultural and civilizational diversity



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

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

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

Also Recalling the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity and the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, 1954, and its protocols, where applicable and UNESCO 2005 Convention on Protection and Promotion of Diversity of Cultural Expression;

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

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

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

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

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

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

Promoting greater understanding and respect among civilizations, cultures and religions by means of concrete projects in the priority areas of youth, education, and media, in collaboration with governments, international and regional organizations;

Noting the active role of the Republic of Azerbaijan in promoting intercultural and interreligious dialogue by hosting the Seventh Global Forum of the Alliance of Civilizations in 2016 and the summits of the World Religious Leaders in 2010 and 2019, as well as through other similar World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue;

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

Recognizing that disaster risk is increasingly complex and systemic and that hazards can trigger each other with cascading impacts across cultural sectors and geographies, and that the interrelation of risks across multiple dimensions and scales and potential unintended negative consequences should inform development policies and investments, emphasizing that these policies should be oriented towards building resilience to future shock, including those that may jeopardize cultural heritage sites. (Based on A/RES/78/152) (Iran)

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

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

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

Condemning the loss, destruction, removal, theft, pillage, illicit movement or misappropriation of and any acts of vandalism or damage, directed against cultural property in areas of armed conflict and territories that are occupied;

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

We therefore,

1. **Determine** to encourage and promote further intercultural dialogue and inter-religious exchanges throughout Asia;
2. **Resolve** to appreciate and promote the benefits of diversity and good governance among Asian nations, and encourage values such as justice, human rights, non-discrimination, democracy and respect within and among communities and nations;

3. **Reject** all manifestations of discrimination that are based on racism, xenophobia and all other related forms of intolerance;
4. **Remain Committed** to the protection of the rights of all communities, where applicable, so as to ensure the fulfillment of community rights;
5. **Urge** relevant governmental agencies to further facilitate consular services as appropriate for citizens of Asian countries to allow for greater people-to-people interaction;
6. **Acknowledge** that illegal import, export and transfer of ownership of cultural property and artifacts are responsible for the impoverishment of the cultural identity of the countries of origin of such property;
7. **Decide** to remain cognizant of damages to religious holy places and historical sites by other terrorist organizations in our home continent;
8. **Resolve** to cooperate to prevent illegal import, export or transfer of cultural property and artifacts among Asian countries and beyond;
9. **Urge** Member Parliaments to consider ratifying the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage and the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage;
10. **Underline** the importance of strengthening international cooperation and reducing vulnerability in the face of natural and human-made hazards, including weather-related as well as water-related hazards that may damage cultural heritage sites.
11. **Call Upon** all Member Parliaments to promote tolerance and empathy among Asian nations with a view to diminish distrust, misunderstanding, and conflict among
12. religious communities;
13. **Strongly Recommend** APA Member Parliaments to promote tourism in association with conservation and protection of cultural heritage;
14. **Reiterate** that during armed conflict, states should adopt measures to safeguard the cultural and natural heritage of a nation in conformity with international law and the principles and objectives of international agreements and UNESCO recommendations concerning the protection of such heritage during hostilities;
15. **Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to support establishing an award to be presented annually to outstanding Asian artists; authors, poets, film makers, painters, etc. who best convey the APA's commitment to cultural diversity in Asia;
16. **Encourage** the parliamentarians to support their governments outreaching to civil society about the importance of cultural diversity in societies and developing strategic plans and projects to develop the cultural sector to promote dialogue among civilizations and cultures;
17. **Stress** on the important role the private sector can play in promoting cultural

diversity, encouraging the development of plans and mechanisms to create a space for dialogue between the private and public sectors to develop plans to manage, protect, and promote cultural diversity in Asia;

18. **Also stress** on the important role the parliamentarians can play in developing policies and legislation to promote the principles enshrined in the UNESCO World Day for Cultural Diversity in their countries and to develop appropriate mechanisms for developing plans and regulatory frameworks to manage the cultural heritage sites, by identifying the cultural importance of these sites, maintaining their authenticity and preserving their value while respecting international laws for cultural diversity;
19. **Call upon** the APA Member's Parliaments to support the cultural diversity including respect to regional and national particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems.



Draft Resolution on Asian Integration through Information and Communication Technology

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Reaffirming that right of access to accurate information is an integral part of the fundamental right of freedom of expression, as recognized by Resolution 59 of the UN General Assembly adopted in 1946, as well as by Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2008).

Recalling WSIS¹ Outcomes of 2003, 2005 held under UN aegis to build a people centered, democratic, inclusive and development oriented information society and relevant UN resolutions;

Underlining that Asian integration can be achieved through further dialogue, interaction, and communication among Asian people for the promotion of peace, liberty, equality, human rights, and welfare in Asia;

Acknowledging the fundamental role of information and communication technology as an indispensable factor in all areas of national regional, and global development;

Awareing that digital space is susceptible to any acts of criminal or terrorist purposes that could cause disruption due to data and information leakage.

Acknowledging that fostering international cooperation in information and communication technology necessitates opposing and refraining from the use of unilateral coercive measures that hinder the complete realization of economic and social development for affected populations .

Recognizing the fact that today Asia encompasses the biggest market in the world, the highest number of population; the largest amount of foreign currency reserves; and dynamic economic growth;

¹ World Summit on Information Society held under the aegis of UN and ITU in 2003 and 2005

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

Deeply concerned by the proliferation of misinformation and disinformation, hate speech, cyberbullying, child sexual exploitation and abuse, and highlighting the role of States and other stakeholders to counter violence which occurs through or is amplified by the use of technology.

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

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

Welcoming the active implementation of the “Digital Silk Road”, which aims to create a new telecommunication backbone route between Europe and Asia by utilizing the existing capabilities/ infrastructure of interested countries in the region;

We therefore,

1. **Recognize** that information and communications technologies present new opportunities and challenges and that there is a pressing need to address the major impediments, in particular unilateral coercive measures-that developing countries face in accessing the new technologies, such as an appropriate enabling environment, sufficient resources, infrastructure, education, capacity, investment and connectivity;
2. **Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to support vocational and technical education and capacity building in Asia in order to enhance people’s digital literacy, skills and competitiveness in coping with the challenges of globalization based on digital technologies;
3. **Also call upon** the UN, its specialized agencies, affiliated organizations, particularly ITU, the UN Specialized agency in ICTs, to support the Members of this Assembly through collaboration transferring in improving access to ICTs and ICT-enabled services and technologies;
4. **Exhort** APA Member Parliamentarians to collaborate and take necessary measures inter alia to promote the development of ICT infrastructure through enabling policies, capacity building, building confidence and security in the use of ICTs;
5. Call upon APA Member Parliaments to support legislation requiring digital technology companies and developers to, in consultation with governments, develop industry accountability frameworks, that increase transparency and define responsibilities within the cyberspace (Iran)

6. Call upon member parliaments to formulation strategies aimed at safeguarding children and youth and reducing the sexual exploitation of women through modern communication channels, including the exchange of knowledge and experiences, policy coordination, and collaboration with the private sector.
7. **Call upon:** APA Member Parliaments to prioritize initiatives aimed at bridging the digital divide within their countries by investing in and promoting regional collaboration for the deployment of telecommunication infrastructure in underserved and rural areas.
8. **Urge:** APA Member Parliaments to collaborate on standardizing and upgrading ICT infrastructure across the region, focusing on the adoption of next-generation technologies such as 5G and fiber-optic networks to enhance regional connectivity.
9. **Encourage:** APA Member Parliaments to establish and promote regional training programs, scholarships, and partnerships with international institutions for capacity building in key areas such as cybersecurity, network management, and ICT policy formulation
10. **Support:** the establishment of joint research centers, innovation hubs, and technology parks focused on emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, blockchain, Internet of Things, etc.



Draft Resolution on Collaboration on Health Equity in Asia

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

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

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

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

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

Noting Astana Declaration adopted on 25-26 October 2018 reaffirming the commitments expressed in Alma Ata Declaration adopted on 6-12 September 1978;

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

Also welcoming the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the UN General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases, adopted on 19 September 2011;

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

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

Also recognizing that health inequities arise from social determinants of health, that is, the societal conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work age their disability and gender;

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

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

Also expressing concern on deteriorating health effects of wars and armed conflicts as well as Unilateral and Secondary Sanctions by hindering provision and quality of health service and causing deprivation from fundamental human rights prospective to health, due to the inequalities in access and utilization of qualified health services including interactions with Special UN mandates;

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

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

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

We therefore,

1. **Urge** the APA Member Parliaments to incorporate Social factors of Health (SDH) more intensively in other APA themes and activities;
2. **Urge** the APA Member Parliaments to strengthen collaboration with a view to formulating a coherent approach with regard to Social factors of health in Asia, especially education, housing, and employment;
3. **Invite** the APA Member Parliaments to promote Healthcare in Asia through sharing experiences and best practices on identifying vulnerability and inequity and actively advocate the inclusion of social factors of health in national policies and programs in accordance with national contexts and priorities;
4. **Invite** APA member Parliaments to develop a cross-sectoral collaboration for the advancement of health equity in Asia through comprehensive training and study exchanges on social determination of health among policy makers and related stakeholders;
5. Call upon APA Member Parliaments to support and launch digital platforms and mechanisms for knowledge exchange to accelerate the sharing of expertise and experiences related to health equity among Member States. These platforms may include online forums, virtual workshops, and dedicated applications for the exchange of data and best practices in the field of health equity.

6. **Urge** the APA Member Parliaments to adopt policies and measures to improve service provision, primary health care, human resources for health and health financing system including social protection system as well as health insurance plans for a more equitable resource distribution;
7. **Provide** adequate, predictable, evidence-based and sustainable finances, while improving their effectiveness, to support national efforts in achieving universal health coverage, in accordance with national contexts and priorities, through domestic, bilateral, regional and multilateral channels, including international cooperation, financial and technical assistance, considering the use of traditional and innovative financing mechanisms;
8. **Call on** APA Member Parliaments to encourage their respective governments in order to establish networking among major governmental and non-governmental institutions dealing with health issues in Asia, and expand cooperation with academic institutions, non-governmental organizations, civil society groups, academia and the media with adequate safeguard in order to identify the main social determinants of health;
9. **Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to take action in their countries to increase health literacy and awareness as well as to enhance health promotion and disease prevention;
10. **Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to persuade their respective governments to create and implement targeted policies, activities, and programs in line with national contexts and priorities to ensure a success in the achievement of SDGs including universal health coverage with regard to health policies; and promoting access to quality, efficacious, safe and affordable diagnosis, therapeutics, medicines, and vaccines, and essential technologies, and their components, as well as equipment as appropriate;
11. **Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to undertake measures to coordinate responses to epidemics and to support international efforts to prevent, mitigate and address the impacts of infectious diseases and epidemics in accordance with the goal of advancing the 2030 Agenda;
12. **Invite** APA Member Parliaments to encourage their respective governments for enhancing the role of digital technologies, connectivity and access in public health, medical care and health services;
13. **Call on** APA Member Parliaments to take necessary actions and to encourage their respective governments to ensure child nutrition needs and to tackle malnutrition with a focus on equity for a healthier generation;
14. **Determine** to accelerate the achievement of SDG 2030 health targets and to take active part on the discussion of 2030 development agenda by delivering Asian views in the international arena to drive the global agenda forward, as appropriate in the national context and priorities;
15. **Urge** the APA Member Parliaments to adopt relevant legislations to support universal access of all population in Asia to basic health services and pharmaceutical products

inter alia, via persuading their respective governments to collaborate with other Asian Governments to devise an integrated Asian Mechanism of Health Insurance Coverage, in order to facilitate multilateral access of Asian People to medicine and health services in the continent.

16. **Call on** APA Member Parliament to reconsider the health legislation in force to ensure achieving the goal of universal health coverage for all, in addition to increase public allocations for health spending in the countries of the continent to internationally recognized rates, in a manner that enhances equal access to adequate and sustainable health services for all citizens of the continent, especially women, children, persons with disabilities, older persons and the poorest groups;
17. **Emphasize** that health problems are not only caused by local factors, but are also related to the work of other communities and the health of other people near and far, therefor, ensuring that everyone in every country has access to health care can indeed better protect everyone's health.
18. **Urge** APA Member Parliaments to develop and implement targeted strategies to mitigate these emerging health threats, ensuring that they are integrated into national health policies and programs.



Draft Resolution on Asian Parliamentarians Against Corruption

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

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

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

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

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

Emphasizing that corruption hinders the development process as well as building a state of law and institutions, and stands in the way of stability and security of societies, prosperity, as well as undermining the value of democracy, whereas the prevention thereof has become an urgent necessity and a comprehensive public interest.

Recognizing article 4 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption according to which parties shall carry out their obligations under the Convention in a manner consistent with the principles of sovereign equality and territorial integrity of States and that of non-intervention in the domestic affairs of other States, and recalling General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015.

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

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

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

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

We therefore,

1. **Condemn** corruption at all levels and in all its forms, including bribery; money laundering; and abuse of power;
2. **Express** determination to prevent and combat corrupt practices in all forms and collaborate on facilitating asset recovery and returning such assets to their legitimate owners, to the countries of origin, in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption;
3. **Welcome** the significant number of Member States that have already ratified or acceded to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and in this regard urges all APA Member Parliaments that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the United Nations Convention against Corruption as a matter of priority, and urges all States Parties to the Convention to take appropriate measures ensuring its full and effective implementation;
4. **Resolve** to promote exchange of good practices and experiences regarding the role of Parliaments in preventing and countering corruption, including by raising awareness among public, reviewing and strengthening anti-corruption legislation, exercising parliamentary oversight, fostering a culture of transparency and accountability, promoting rule of law and strengthening institutions at national level;
5. **Recognize** the importance of strengthening Parliaments, role in preventing and combating corruption and promoting the exchange of good practices and national experience among Parliamentary Institutions as called for by the Resolution 8/14 adopted by the 8th Conference of States Parties to the UN Convention Against Corruption held from 16 – 20 December 2019 in Abu Dhabi, UAE;
6. **Urge APA members** to improve and expand working relations with important Asian organizations such as GOPAC (Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption) Chapter in order to enhance synergy and areas for cooperation and joint initiatives;
7. **Call on** member parliaments to empower civil society as an effective partner of parliaments and promote the role of the media in preventing and combating corruption in Asia;
8. **Invite** member parliaments to encourage their governments to engage the private sector in developing criteria and procedures to protect against corruption;

9. **Urge** member parliaments to encourage their governments to provide and harness the full potential of employing education and technology in preventing and combating corruption to reduce the likelihood of the spread of corruption;
10. **Also invite** member parliaments to encourage their governments to implement strategies and policies aimed at preventing and combating corruption and to develop measures to combat impunity;



Draft Resolution on APA Women Parliamentarians

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

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

Recalling United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security, as the first resolution recognizing women's leadership role in international peace and security and their contributions to conflict prevention and peacekeeping.

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

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

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

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

Considering women's rights including gender stereotype women's empowerment, eliminating violence and discrimination which prevent them from enjoying access to health services, education, equal opportunity, and fair pay; and seek to engage women in political, economic and social aspects of life;

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

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

We therefore,

1. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to ensure the full and effective inclusion of women in social, cultural, economic, political, and sustainable development affairs in Asia, at national, regional, and international levels as appropriate;
2. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to adopt legislations to facilitate women's equal representations in Asian Parliaments;
3. **Encourage** APA Women Parliamentarians to lead by example and place the interest of women at the heart of policy and decision making as an endeavor to encourage and engage more women into politics;
4. **Recommend** the importance of information and awareness campaigns to promote the integration of women into political participation and decision – making with a view to facilitate reaching national and international parliamentary institutions;
5. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to recognize the concerns of and discrimination and inequalities experienced by women, and to effectively implement the relevant provisions of United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which promote gender equality and empowerment of women with respect for national and cultural particularities of the Member States, in line with international law, as applicable;
6. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to recognize that gender equality and empowerment of women as a stand-alone goal with clear targets and indicators that must be achieved through implementation of goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with respect to national and cultural particularities of the Member States, in line with international law, as applicable;
7. **Emphasizing** the concept of family values as a basic unit to build a healthy and viable society,
8. **Determine** to enhance the activities of the Coordinating Meeting of APA Women Parliamentarian through more effective exchange of views and close interaction;
9. **Express** grave concern at the dire situation of millions of women in all war-torn and conflict-ridden areas who are inevitably in danger of and impacted by mortality and morbidity of themselves and their family members particularly their children;
10. **Also Express** support of APA Member Parliaments in advancing women, peace and security agenda, particularly by enhancing women's role peacebuilding

activities.

11. **Recommends** the APA Member Parliamentarians to adopt special legislations to support and promote the special role women to deal with the challenges induced by climate change.
12. **Recommends** the APA Member Parliamentarians to recognize the concerns of gender digital divide and to adopt special legislative measures for its reduction.
13. **Encourage** the APA Member Parliamentarians to ensure inclusion of women in the policy making bodies.
14. **Encourage** the APA Member Parliamentarians to bringing measures to ensure safety of women and girls from cyber-crimes.
15. **Encourage** the APA Member Parliamentarians to take measures to provide education about prevention of drug / substance abuse to avoid its potential harmful consequence)
16. Calling the APA Member Parliaments to ensure that all efforts they undertake regarding women will take into account those with multiple disadvantages, especially women with disabilities.



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

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

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

Recalling with appreciation various global, regional and sub-regional initiatives on mutual understanding and interfaith harmony including the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 65/5 (2010), the International Conference on Environment, Peace and the Dialogue among Civilizations and Cultures (2005);

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

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

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

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

Commending the initiatives taken by the United Nations in support of dialogue among civilizations and citizens and followers of religions, foremost among which is the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations UNAOC and Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue (DICID) in Qatar.

We therefore,

1. **Maintain** that a regular dialogue between the APA Member Parliaments become an effective supplement for addressing the challenges of ongoing international

conflicts based on religious differences and discrepancies;

2. **Denounce** the hatred stereotyping of persons based on their ethnicity and religion condemning any activity that leads towards the division between the followers of different faiths;
3. **Underline** the importance of moderation as a value within societies for countering violent extremism conducive to terrorism and for further contributing to the promotion of inter-faith and inter-cultural dialogue, tolerance, understanding and cooperation and Encourage efforts, as appropriate, to enable voice of moderation to work together in order to build a more secure, inclusive and peaceful world;
4. **Declare** that extremism and terrorism can not be attributed or accredited to any religion or nationality as these are common enemies of all humanity;
5. **Consider** that any form of discrimination based on religion, belief, faith or ethnic adherence is contrary to the merits of inter-faith dialogue and has no place in the community of civilized nations;
6. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to consider providing a respective national legal instrument, with the aim of creating a conducive atmosphere for inter-faith dialogue and cooperation as well as harmony among all religions;
7. **Deplore**, in the strongest terms, all atrocities and acts of violence, committed by extremist and terrorist groups under the guise of religions and call upon all states to refrain from providing any support to such terrorist groups;
8. **Condemn** the misuse and distortion of religious beliefs, by extremist groups and their followers, which inflame intra-faith as well as inter-faith hatred and hold them accountable for instigation of ill-judgment, violence, and brutality against people of other religions and faiths;

Condemn the shameful acts and the exploitation of freedom of opinion and expression to offend religious beliefs and divine books, which constitutes a serious offense to the feelings of hundreds of millions of Muslims around the world;
9. **Strongly condemn** any advocacy of hatred based on religion or belief which constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, whether it involves the use of print, audiovisual or electronic media or any other means;
10. Recommend to jointly fight against all kinds of discrimination based on beliefs, and in particular stand against rising Islamophobia and Christionophobia which is an artificial and unreal expression of the efforts aiming to defame Islam and Christianity.
11. Enphase on the importance of addressing Islamophobia and Christionophobia as a form of racism against followers of the Islamic and Christion faith and stressing the need for promoting dialogue and meetings that fosters a deeper understanding of the true traditions of Islam and Christianity , thereby encouraging mutual respect among religions.

12. **Urge** all APA Member Parliaments to intensify their efforts for the development of international and regional frameworks to promote best practices which leads towards the inter faith harmony and collaboration;
13. **Invite** Member Parliaments to further promote reconciliation to help to ensure durable peace and sustained development, including by working with faith leaders and communities and through reconciliatory measures and acts of service and by encouraging forgiveness and compassion among individuals;
14. **Encourage** all member parliaments to pass laws and legislation to criminalize acts associated with defamation of religions and their sanctities, combat all forms of discrimination, and firmly renounce hate speech, including Islamophobia and Christianophobia.
15. **Emphasize** the importance of the concerted efforts of the international community in establishing specialized centers to combat extremist ideology and terrorism, in order to promote a culture of peace, security, and tolerance;
16. **Encourage** Asian countries to adhere to the principles and values set out in the Human Fraternity Document for World Peace and Living Together, reflecting the values of tolerance, moderation, and the rejection of racism;
17. **Encourage** Asian countries to develop a tolerance award to support the efforts in the fields of peace and tolerance.



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

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

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

Recalling the relevant provisions where applicable on the protection of cultural heritage including the four Geneva Conventions (1949), the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (1954) and its related protocols, the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970), the *Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage* (1972), UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (2001);

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

Recalling the United Nations General Assembly resolution 66/180 of 19 December 2011 on “Strengthening Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Responses to Protect Cultural Property, especially with regard to its Trafficking” and recalling also General Assembly resolutions 68/186 of 18 December 2013 on strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to protect cultural property;

Welcoming the important and active role that the UN and its relevant agencies play in countering smuggled of cultural artifacts, in particular, in Asia;

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

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

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

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

Also Recognizing the need to enhance national capacities, including parliamentary capacity to reinforce national strategy to combat smuggling of cultural items;

We therefore,

1. **Urge** all APA Member Parliaments to utilize their legislative role to prevent and punish the smuggling of cultural objects in Asia and facilitate concerted efforts to return the stolen items back to their original locations without any cost to the original owner country;
2. Invite all APA member parliaments that have not yet done so to consider ratifying the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (1954), UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970), UNESCO Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972), UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (2001) and the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003);
3. **Request** all APA Member Parliaments to strengthen their national legislation on protecting cultural properties and combatting all forms of smuggling in cultural property and related offences;
4. **Express** support for the further strengthening of the system of management to protect movable cultural heritage from theft and smuggling of cultural properties;
5. **Urge** APA member parliament and national government to work more closely in the development of legislations and implementation of laws aiming at the combat of cross-border illicit trade and smuggling of cultural artifacts and other cultural assets, and the enhanced cooperation to ensure the return, restitution or repatriation of trafficked, illicitly exported or imported, stolen, looted, illicitly excavated or illicitly traded cultural property to countries of origin while also ensuring mutual support and assistance by law-enforcement bodies in the combat operations;
6. **Also Urge** all Member Parliaments to exercise efforts to jointly register their shared tangible and intangible cultural heritages at UNESCO's relevant list.



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

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

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

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

Stressing the need to continue to take concentrated measures within the framework of the Paris Pact in order to strengthen cross-border cooperation and information exchanged with a view to countering illicit cultivation of narcotic crops, production and trafficking of narcotic drugs, *synthetic drugs and New Psychoactive Substances (NPS)* psychotropic substances and their precursor chemical substances in Asia *taking stock of the emerging threat of increased production of synthetic drugs in Afghanistan* .

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

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

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

Recognizing that production and illicit trafficking of narcotics drugs, synthetic drugs and New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) can be utilized for financing drugs related terrorism;

Expressing the need to explore ways and means to intensify regional coordination among legislators to combat drug trafficking and make anti-drug policies a priority in programs of

co-operation with, and of assistance to, the Asian countries which are affected by illicit drug trafficking;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Underscoring that the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, synthetic drugs and NPS of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs synthetic drugs and NPS and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, and other relevant international instruments constitute the cornerstone of the international drug control system;

'Reaffirming our unwavering commitment, including in the context addressing Narcotics Drugs, to ensure that all aspects of demand reduction and related measures, supply reduction and related measures, and international cooperation should be addressed in full conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, International Law, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, the principle of nonintervention in the internal affairs of States, all human rights, fundamental freedoms, the inherent dignity of all individuals and the principles of equal rights and mutual respect among states;

We therefore,

1. **Stress** the need to exchange information and best practices within APA Member Parliaments on combating illicit drug trafficking;
2. **Remain vigilant** to the new modus operandi through the digital world and also the availability of the new substances of drug which are not yet listed in the respective national illicit drug lists and call for strong cooperation among APA Member Countries on these issues;
3. **Reiterate** the need to coordinate and improve law enforcement activities to combat the production and trafficking of narcotic drugs, synthetic drugs and NPS, psychotropic substances and their precursor chemicals and curtailing the flow of illicit drug more effectively;
4. **Encourage** the APA Member Parliaments to consider adopting relevant legislation regulations to strengthen international cooperation to support comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs, as an essential elements of successful crop control strategies, especially in areas affected by or at risk of the illicit cultivation of crops, taking into account the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development and Member Parliaments with extensive

relevant expertise to continue to share best practices, upon request;

5. **Underline** the importance of effectively using international financial assistance for the creation of alternative economic opportunities in order to ensure a sustainable anti-drug policy;
6. **Call upon** APA Asian Parliaments to enable civil society as an effective partner of parliaments and to enhance the role of mass media in combating drug trafficking in Asia;
7. **Encourage** all APA Member Parliaments to support their respective governments in order to coordinate with international and regional organizations including the United Nations (UN) to combat the threats of terrorism, illicit drug trafficking, transnational organized crime and legalization of income derived from criminal activities;
8. **Urge** that a regular dialogue on supporting joint actions of Asian governments against abovementioned threats within APA could become an effective supplement for addressing the challenges of international illicit drug trafficking and transnational organized crime in the region;
9. **Express** our commitment to encourage and enhance cooperation with all relevant states and international and regional organizations, on matters of common interest in the spirit of this resolution on rendering assistance to combat illicit drug trafficking.



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

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

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

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

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

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

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

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

We therefore,

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

cooperation among Member Parliaments to promote quality child and youth development, care and assistance, as well as to protect all children including those with disabilities, and youth from all forms of violence , negligence, abuse, radicalization, exploitation and discrimination;

3. **Also encourage** APA Member Parliaments to strengthen and, where necessary, enact or reform legislations to ensure that all children and youth are protected against all forms of violence, as well as to improve child and youth development schemes;
4. Emphase on the urgent need for the APA Member Parliaments to adopt strategies and legislation that enhances the support for guidance and counseling programs focused on building awareness and personal capabilities among children and youth, including the integration of career guidance and personal development strategies into educational curricula and youth development programs, thereby enabling them to set goals, cultivate leadership skills, and prepare for active and responsible citizenship.
5. **Urge** all APA Member Parliaments to cooperate and exchange experiences regarding policies and best practices for protecting children and youth from the harmful effects of technology, and to benefit from international expertise in this field.
6. **Encourage** member states to create and promote policies that foster economic opportunities for youth, including job creation, entrepreneurship programs, and access to financial resources, ensuring that young people can contribute meaningfully to their communities and economies.
7. **Call upon** APA member parliaments to strengthen and, where necessary, constitute parliamentary caucus on Child Rights enhancing the role of parliaments in protection of child rights and promotion of Social Welfare.



Draft Resolution on Ageing Society in Asia

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We therefore,

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

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

2. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to monitor the implementation of their respective governments' ageing policies and to accord priority to the availability of evidence-based, accurate, reliable and up-to-date data and information in order to ensure effective, efficient and sustainable implementation;
3. **Urge** APA Member Parliaments to exercise their constituent authority to maximize opportunities for older persons, including through promoting flexible work and alternative employability arrangements, as appropriate;
4. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to work with their relevant constituencies and community-based mechanisms to promote an enabling volunteer environment for older persons, taking into account different social contexts and norms;
5. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to develop legislation and policies to promote an enabling environment to the lives of older persons and to proactively provide services to them and improve the quality of such services, particularly health services;
6. **Stress** the importance of promoting and supporting international efforts, particularly the efforts exerted by the United Nations, as the UN launched a set of goals that include raising awareness of the health needs of the older persons and their contributions to the communities in which they live;
7. **Call on** member parliaments to encourage their governments to continuously launch programs, initiatives, and events in social development centers in Asian countries in cooperation with the government and national institutions to raise awareness among all segments of society about the needs of the older persons, on the one hand, motivate the older persons and consolidate their role on the other hand. This, in turn, shall actuate all aspects of the active lives of older persons, and ensure their active and continuous participation in their communities.
8. **Encourages** the international community and the relevant agencies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, to support national efforts to provide funding for research and data-collection initiatives on ageing, as appropriate, as well as to include indicators that provide an evidence base for the equitable delivery and effective monitoring of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.
9. **Call upon** States to promote policies further in respect of "protection and strengthening the family and maintain the young/dynamic population structure" at the national level, and to improve international cooperation and establish mechanisms to share knowledge and experience among countries.



Draft Resolution on Human Development in Asia

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling our commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals for the years 2015-2030, which includes poverty eradication and focuses on providing good health, welfare, gender equality, appropriate education and work, and economic growth;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We therefore,

1. **Encourage** setting a unified criterion for national capacity building;
2. **Urge** developed countries and also regional United Nation office in Asia to support

the proposed training center project and encourage their parliaments to take steps towards the realization of this goal in compliance with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals;

3. **Call on** APA Member Parliaments to increase the budgetary allocations for education, health, and housing for their direct impact on developing human capital, offer adequate opportunities for the human element for creativity, innovation, and active participation in looking ahead;
4. **Also call on** APA Member Parliaments to create strategic partnerships and work closely with governments and public institutions on issues related to promoting human development.



Draft Resolution on Tourism Cooperation in Asia

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling our commitment to the resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 25 September 2015, titled “Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” (A/RES/70/1), which exhorts to develop and implement policies to promote more resilient, inclusive and sustainable tourism sector, and acknowledges the role of tourism in creating jobs and promoting local culture and products as well as preserving them for the future generations and UN General Assembly resolution A/RES/75/229 on Promotion of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, for poverty eradication and environment protection;

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

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

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

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

Re-emphasizing cultural diversity and protection of cultural heritage in Asia and recognizing the potential of multilateral regional frameworks such as the Asia Cooperation Dialogue

(ACD), an Asia wide forum which declared “culture and tourism” as well as “education and human resource development” as two out of its six priority areas of cooperation;

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

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

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

Highlighting promotion of dialogue and harmony among followers of World Religions and different faiths;

Emphasizing that simplified procedures that will encourage travels among the Member Countries for touristic purposes will not only help our people interact more, will also make our destinations of cultural and historical values better-known to our people;

We, therefore,

1. **Recognize** that tourism plays a significant role in strengthening people to people contact, cultural cooperation and social and economic development, which will contribute to the regional integration and connectivity in Asia;
2. **Encourage** enhanced dialogue and cooperation in the areas of culture and tourism among the Asian Parliamentary Assembly Member Countries, also within the framework of relevant multilateral fora;
3. **Promote** Inter- regional tourism cooperation through regional integration organizations particularly ASEAN, ECO, OIC and other existing platforms and support regional tourism exchanges particularly for persons engaged in the tourism industry;
4. **Encourage** regional guidelines by competent institutions that will facilitate comfortable, safe and healthy travel among the Asian Parliamentary Assembly Membercountries;
5. **Promote** Silk Road tourism through arranging events and festivals and in cooperation with the international community and relevant organizations will be revived;
6. **Call for** the mobilization of our resources in all tourism-related areas and sectors such as transportation, accommodation, gastronomy, public health by relevant institutions, and ensuring broader participation of all stakeholders to generate a sustainable structure in tourism and travel sectors;
7. **Establish** our region as a peaceful and green tourism destination with diverse products

and high quality services while ensuring responsible and sustainable tourism development and upgrading quality of life of the people through effective involvement of all stake holders throughout the process;

8. **Encourage** our citizens to travel to the Member Countries and to work with our respective tour operators, airlines, hotels and all relevant stakeholders and ensure close cooperation between our respective tourism, transportation and health authorities;
9. **Invite** the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly to undertake concrete steps in line with the principles put forward by the UN Tourism to initiate multilateral mechanisms to further re-energize and promote tourism sector by coordinating and aligning efforts and measures taken by each nation in Asia;
10. **Support** to establish a cooperative regional mechanism such as Asian Tourism Forum under the aegis of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, with participation of stakeholders across different levels of public and private sectors, in order to promote the tourism sector;
11. **Facilitate** Visa procedures for the citizens of the Region;
12. **Strengthen** and diversify tourism health/medical, culture, winter, sea, mountain desert, religious, Sports and other niche areas/domains;
13. **Support** utilization of electronic media, and digital media human resource development and capacity building activities;
14. **Devise** and promote green tourism strategy in collaboration with international tourism bodies;
15. **Encourage** private sector and local community involvement in the tourism activities will be strengthened;
16. Support employment and hiring of Tourism activists in the relevant regional and international organizations by encouraging relevant national authorities to follow a scheme in the said organizations such as UN Tourism.
17. Encourage establishing a Tourism Entrepreneurs Network among member states through APA (Iran);
18. Encouraging exchange students among APA nations relevant Tourism Institutions and Academia.



Draft Resolution on the Commission on Women

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling that the proposal to establish the Commission on Women was put forward and adopted at the 13th Plenary Session of APA held on 10 January, 2023 in Antalya, Republic of Türkiye;

Recognizing that despite the implementation of certain measures and decisive efforts towards the protection of women's rights **especially those with disabilities (Türkiye)** and the elimination of **gender (Iran) discrimination against women (Iran)** in the Asian region, serious problems still exist in this area;

Drawing attention to the fact, that during armed conflicts in the Asian region, women and children become the most vulnerable social group and they experience the consequences of violence and human rights abuses, suffer from displacement, loss, poverty, and disintegration of families;

Underlining that the regional conflicts exacerbate already existing forms of discrimination against women and girls and put them at risk of human rights abuses;

Taking into account the need to take effective measures to protect refugee and internally displaced women from violence;

Considering the negative impact and bitter consequences of the COVID- 19 pandemic on women;

Realizing that **gender-based (Iran) discrimination against women (Iran)**, women trafficking, violence against women, domestic violence, sexual exploitation of women and girls are widespread in the Asian region;

Stressing the existence of serious problems, related to the increase in the number of out-of-school girls and its negative consequences;

Noting that widespread early marriages, limit the life prospects of young girls, hinder their opportunities to study and work, increase pregnancy-related health risks and lead to maternal mortality;

Underlining the low level of participation of women in political life and low level of representation of women in parliaments and governments, the importance of recognizing women's participation in decision-making as a requirement for justice and democracy, as well as a necessary condition for taking into account their interests;

Realizing the impossibility of achieving the goals of ~~equality~~ **justice (Iran)**, development and peace without the active participation of women at ~~all~~ **(Iran)** levels of decision-making;

Stressing the importance of measures to increase the number of women in decision-making leadership positions in civil service, business, civil society and all other areas of society;

Noting the non-participation or weak representation of women in economic decision-making, including the process of forming rules in the financial, monetary, commercial and tax sphere;

Noting the existence of gaps in the legislation of certain states regarding women's rights, and women empowerment the fact that certain states lack proper women's support programs and strategies, while in some other states such programs are not implemented in a sufficient and timely manner;

Underlining lack of awareness in the field of women's rights ~~and gender equality~~**(Iran)** in society and in the mainstream media;

Being aware that the ~~violation of women's rights~~ **Violence against women (Iran)** and the existence of ~~gender~~ **(Iran)** discrimination **against women (Iran)** are among the biggest challenges in the field of human rights;

Guided by the purposes, principles and provisions of the Charter of the United Nations;

Considering some relevant international conventions as well as the decisions of the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995) and its subsequent periodic follow-up conferences have all developed a comprehensive framework for the protection and empowerment of women and girls, ~~eliminating all forms of discrimination against them~~ **eliminating discrimination against women and girls (Iran)**;

Recalling the ~~adoption of the 2030 Agenda (Iran)~~ for Sustainable Development (~~excluding any conflicting clauses to Sharia~~), **with respect for national and cultural particularities of the Member States, in line with international law, as applicable, (Türkiye)** 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~~ **Elimination violence against women and girls**, ~~as well as ending all forms of discrimination against all women and girls~~**(Iran)**,

Remembering the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Present, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and

Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, which provides a framework to effectively prevent and combat trafficking in persons,

Recognizing the need for the collection of information on the situation of women's rights;

Stressing that if urgent measures are not taken by states and international organizations to solve the mentioned problems, the risk of aggravation of the current situation will increase;

Taking into account that keeping the issue of protecting women's rights and elimination of ~~gender inequality~~ Gender injustice (Iran) at the forefront of the APA activities will be ~~expedient~~ crucial (Türkiye)

Taking into account the need to adopt special legislations to promote the special role of women to deal with the challenges induced by climate change. (Pakistan)

Drawing attention to recognize the impact of gender digital divide and to adopt special measures for its reduction. (Pakistan)

Underlining the need of inclusion of appropriate ratio women in the policy making bodies. (Pakistan)

Drawing attention to bringing special measures to ensure safety of women and girls from cyber-crimes. (Pakistan)

To take measures to provide education about prevention of drug / substance abuse to avoid its potential harmful consequence. (Pakistan)

We therefore,

1. **Decide** to establish the Commission on Women within the framework of the APA, which will make a significant contribution to the elimination of discrimination against women **including the old-aged and those with disabilities (Türkiye)** in Asian countries.
2. **Decide** that the Commission should mobilize the efforts and resources of APA Member Parliaments to draw attention to women's rights and ~~gender equality~~ gender Justice (Iran) problems and increase awareness on this issue on a systematic basis;
3. **Decide** that the Commission should support the creating conditions for women to ~~fully~~ (Iran) exercise their political, economic, social, cultural and civil rights;
4. **Decide** that the Commission should contribute to the raising awareness about the situation of women's rights (Türkiye) in the member states **respecting the principle of national sovereignty (Iran)**;
5. **Decide** that the Commission should encourage APA Member Parliaments to strengthen the legal framework for the protection of women and girls in order to

- end violence and ~~inequality~~ **Injustice (Iran)**;
6. **Decide** that the Commission shall encourage APA Member Parliaments to contribute to the strengthening of relevant national institutions on women's rights issues to improve the situation of women;
 7. **Decide** that the Commission shall provide the consideration of women's rights and ~~gender equality~~ **gender justice (Iran)** issues within the framework of APA's activities;
 8. **Decide** that the Commission shall, inter alia:
 - (a) Play the role of a data collection mechanism on the situation with women's rights and gender ~~equality~~ **justice (Iran)** in member states;
 - (b) Discuss the problems related to women's rights and gender ~~equality~~ **justice (Iran)** within the framework of APA,
 - (c) Make recommendations to the Executive Council of APA and Plenary, contributing to the process of solving existing problems in the sphere of women's rights and gender ~~equality~~ **justice (Iran)**;
 - (d) Submit an annual report on the situation ~~with~~ **of (Türkiye) women's rights (Türkiye)** in member states to the APA Plenary Sessions;
 - (e) Implement the systematic cooperation with other bodies of APA in order to more effectively promote the protection of women's rights;
 - (f) ~~Support the implementation of gender quotas regarding the composition of delegations in APA;~~ **(Iran)**
 - (g) Act as a mechanism for supporting women MP;
 - (h) Establish the relations between APA and committees on women's rights issues existing in national parliaments;
 - (i) Organize the relevant seminars and consultations in the sphere of women's rights and gender ~~equality~~ **justice (Iran)**
 9. **Decide** that the Commission shall be composed of one APA delegate from each Member Parliament. The Commission shall have a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, ~~and Rapporteur (Iran)~~, taking into consideration equitable geographical distributions. The Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons, and Rapporteur will be elected from among the APA members for a two-year term of office by consensus. ~~The annual meeting of the Commission shall be convened by the Member Parliament hosting the previous Plenary, unless following mutual agreement of the President and the Permanent Secretariat, they may be hosted by another Member Parliament (Rule 15.3 of the Rules of Procedure of the Plenary of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly).~~ **The meeting of the Commission takes place once a year, before the General Assembly, as is customary for APA meetings, and is hosted by the country holding the chairmanship of the Commission. (TÜRKİYE)**
 10. **Call upon** APA Member Parliaments to take an active part in the activities of the

Commission on Women being created.

Qatar:

We do not support this resolution for the following reasons:

- It will lead to the proposal of resolutions related to children and youth, as well as the establishment of special committees for them.
- The issue of women is addressed in all permanent committees of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly.
- We propose the establishment of a special forum for women parliamentarians, similar to the one in the Inter-Parliamentary Union.



Draft Resolution on Asian Parliamentarians in support of a more just multipolar world order reflecting its cultural and civilizational diversity

We, the members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA),

Noting the contribution of the parliaments of the APA member countries to the development of inter-parliamentary dialog and multilateral cooperation between our countries on the basis of solidarity, mutual respect, justice, equality, consideration of national interests;

Confirming the common understanding of the irreversibility of forming a more just and sustainable multipolar (polycentric) world order, which would ensure sustainable security, preservation of cultural and civilizational identity, and equal development opportunities for all states, regardless of their geographical location, size of territory, demographic, resource and military potentials, political, economic and social structure;

operating on the premise that the polycentric world order is based on including recognition of the interests of all participants in international relations, the diversity of development models of states, the supremacy of international law in regulating international relations, strict observance of the principles of the UN Charter in their entirety and interrelation, and collective solution of common problems.

Being Convinced of the interdependence of the destinies of all countries and peoples in moving towards well-being and prosperity;

Stressing on the priority of conflict resolution by political means, the use of peaceful means to resolve international disputes, their settlement on the basis of mutual respect and compromise.

Noting with deep concern the alarming increase in incidents of discrimination, intolerance, terrorism, and extremism motivated by racial, national or religious hatred and prejudice against persons of different ethnic origin, religion or faith.

Endeavoring to preserve and enhance the world cultural heritage, based on respect for and cherishing the cultural contribution of each people;

Drawing on the definition of culture as a concept that includes ways of life, fundamental human rights and value systems, traditions and beliefs;

Recognizing that social well-being, overcoming poverty and inequality, child and youth development, support for ageing populations, cooperation in culture and education, sports and tourism, and responding to infectious threats are an important part of a just world order;

We therefore,

1. **Call** for the expansion and deepening of all spheres of interstate and social interaction in the APA space in order to enhance its role in the processes of establishing a multipolar world order;
2. **Confirm** our intention to deepen interparliamentary cooperation, including in the fields of culture and social issues, based on the following principles of a multipolar architecture of interaction: diversity and freedom of choice of models of internal development and foreign policy of states and their associations; indivisibility of the security space and interconnectedness of the world; responsible collective leadership of world and regional development centers; rejection of hegemony in international relations; cooperation based on equality, balance of interests and mutual benefit, respect for religious and cultural traditions of various faiths and civil societies; the rule of international law; strengthening cultural and civilizational diversity and the role of universal morality in international relations;
3. **Believe it is important** to promote the formation of a sustainable architecture of equal and indivisible security in the Eurasian space in order to jointly counter common challenges and threats, resolve existing regional conflicts and prevent new ones in order to maintain sustainable peace and stability on the continent;
4. **Not** that building such an architecture meets the goals of the peaceful development of the continent and will contribute to the intensification of the processes of consolidation and cooperation in the long term;
5. **Support** the search for mutually acceptable solutions through multilateral diplomacy, including parliamentary diplomacy, as an instrument for protecting the interests of countries and peoples;
6. **Stand** for inviolability and strict observance of the rights of believers of different confessions, guarantee of peaceful coexistence of religions;
7. Also support the promotion of intercultural dialogue through various global platforms, initiatives and events such as World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue;
8. **Note with concern** the continuation of the neocolonial policy of individual states and groups of states and declare our desire to increase joint efforts to counteract "cultural neocolonialism" aimed at leveling national identity, civilizational identity, culture, centuries-old traditions and spiritual and moral values of the APA member states;
9. **Express** our concern about the growth of terrorism in the world and strongly condemn terrorist and extremist manifestations in any form, including under religious slogans;
10. **Condemn** the glorification in any form of the Nazi movement, Neo-Nazism and militarism and call for the fight against them;
11. Also strongly condemn the growth of military conflicts in the world as well as provocations leading to them and their negative destructive impact on the cultural and civilizational property;
12. **Recognize** the negative impact on the world economy, trade, energy, health, food

security and the social situation of states, especially developing ones, of unilateral coercive measures that violate international law and are incompatible with the principles of the UN Charter;

13. **Call** for the expansion of information exchange channels between APA member countries on issues of inter-civilizational and inter-confessional dialogue, development of civil cultural and educational institutions of modern society, support of multilateral humanitarian events, including cultural, sports, cinematographic, youth and student festivals;
14. Also call for protection of cultural heritage and preservation of cultural identity through promotion of peace for culture, organization of cultural events, exchanges, and global campaigns;
15. **Support** the creation of conditions for strengthening traditional spiritual and moral values and education;
16. Appreciate the efforts of APA Member countries in development of multilateral cooperation and promotion of cultural and social agenda, in particular the UAE and Azerbaijan during their COP28 and COP 29 Presidency as well as Russian Federation within the framework of its BRICS Chairmanship in 2024;

Attachment VII

APA Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs
27 September 2024 Moscow, Russian Federation

*Speech by the Deputy Chair of the Federation Council Committee
on Science, Education and Culture Mrs. Ekaterina Altabaeva*

**Dear Mr. Chairman,
Dear Mr. Secretary General,
Dear Ladies, Gentlemen, and Colleagues,**

1. Exactly one week ago, on 18–20 September, the Fourth Eurasian Women’s Forum was held in St. Petersburg with great success.

The Forum has been held every three years since 2015 and has already become a major international platform that brings together women leaders from all continents of the planet to come up with joint solutions on key issues concerning international cooperation, sustainable economic development, a healthy lifestyle, environmental safety, and the promotion of social and charitable projects.

The Forum participants were highly inspired by the speech of the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin, who had very kind and warm words to say essentially to the entire global women’s community.

The president particularly emphasized the potential and capabilities of modern women and their truly colossal creative role in almost all aspects of our lives.

The theme of the Forum is ‘Women for Strengthening Trust and Global Cooperation’. It originated in response to the demand from women from all over the world, particularly from the countries of the global majority, for a mutually beneficial and equal partnership and development. Each Forum venue and event was accompanied by trust and cooperation.

2. We note with great satisfaction that the Forum has steadily extended beyond the borders of Eurasia and is attracting more and more like-minded people.

This year, it was attended by representatives of 126 countries from all continents and more than 20 leading international organizations, which is an all-time record in the Forum's entire history. Almost all member states of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) were represented by women parliamentarians, prominent figures of the international women's movement, heads of charity projects, environmental activists, guardians of traditions, fighters for public health, and women scientists.

The expanded geography is also evidenced by the online connection of over a million of our like-minded women from all over the world to the Forum events.

Clearly, such genuine interest in the agenda of the Eurasian Women's Forum and the desire to promote its ideas and initiatives is evidence that we are on the right track.

3. The Eurasian Women's Forum is unique not only in terms of the makeup of its participants, but also because of the scope of the issues it addresses. Over the years, the Forum has served as an impetus for the creation of new women's international associations, including the **BRICS Women's Business Alliance, the Women 20**, and the Eurasian Association of Women Regional Leaders, among others.

This year, the programme of all three days of the Forum was very eventful. The **platform approach** underlying the programme enabled us to consider the entire palette of multilateral interaction between women: in politics, economics, the humanitarian sphere, and social processes. The main programme alone featured more than 100 events.

In an effort to maintain continuity, the Forum included a **visiting meeting of the Women 20, the International Club of Winners of the APEC Women's**

Entrepreneurial Projects Competition, and dialogues between the women of Russia and Africa as well as Russia and the Arab world.

4. I would like to emphasize that for the first time **the BRICS agenda was presented in a broad and diverse format on the sidelines of the Forum.** The **first BRICS Women's Forum** was held and made a significant contribution to expanding cooperation between women leaders and representatives of this structure. The Forum included meetings of the **BRICS ministers for women's affairs, women leaders in the agro-industrial complex, the first meeting of the Civil Council,** and an open meeting of the **BRICS Women's Business Alliance.** The project pool addressed a total of 32 focus areas.

5. The results of several competitions were announced at the Eurasian Women's Forum.

One of the first events in the interactive space 'Women in the World of Technology' was the first Green Future International Competition of Women's Initiatives in the Ecology and Sustainable Development of BRICS Countries.

Starting next year, the 'Talented Woman in Modern Industry' International Award will be scaled up to include BRICS countries.

Memorandums and cooperation agreements were signed at the Fourth Eurasian Women's Forum, including a memorandum of cooperation between the Council of the Eurasian Women's Forum and the Coalition of Women Parliamentarians from Africa and Arab Countries.

6. Dear Colleagues,

The **meetings** of the Eurasian Women's Forum **are always distinguished by the spirit of partnership and mutual respect.** Each year, the Forum affirms its **status as the most authoritative discussion platform on the planet.** And our women's community shows the world that women leaders are ready to promote projects on a variety of platforms: be it the SCO, ASEAN, BRICS, or platforms of other international associations.

The proposals made at the Forum are truly taking shape in the form of real action.

Per tradition, we will send the **Final Document of the Fourth Eurasian Women's Forum** to the UN, heads of state and government, parliamentarians, and heads of major international organizations and public associations.

We will rely on these recommendations in our future work and implement them.

Thank you for your attention.



Parliamentary Group of the Kingdom of Bahrain

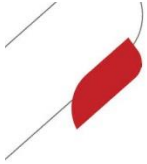
مجلس النواب
Council of Representatives
Kingdom of Bahrain مملكة البحرين

**Speech of Her Excellency Dr. Ebtesam Saleh Al
Dallal**

Member of the Shura Council

**at the meetings of the Standing Committee on Social
and Cultural Affairs of the Asian Parliamentary
Assembly (APA)**

Moscow – Russia



In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

Your Excellency Mr. Chairman of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs, Chairperson of the meeting,

Your Excellency Mr. Mohammed Reza Majidi, Secretary General of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA),

Your Excellencies, respected Members of the Committee, and Distinguished attendees,

Peace, Mercy and Blessings of God be upon you,

As a start, I would like to express my gratitude to the Russian Federal Assembly for hosting this important meeting which brings us here together in Moscow, the capital of history and culture, to discuss the urgent issues that our communities face. As I'm also pleased to extend my sincere gratitude and appreciation to Their Excellencies the President of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA), the Secretary General and Chairman of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs, for their tireless efforts in making this parliamentary cooperation a success, which serves as a model for Asian solidarity.

Your Excellency the President,

Distinguished attendees,

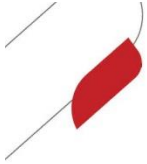


Today, with great pride, I am honored to stand before you to raise a topic of utmost importance, which is the issue of Asian women which constitute a fundamental pillar in building our communities. Despite the progress women made around the continent, they still confront many challenges that step on the way of achieving their full rights and effective participation in the public life. Enhancing the role of women is not just a right of human rights, but rather a fundamental condition to achieve comprehensive and sustainable development. We cannot hope to build prosperous and strong communities without ensuring women's full participation and equality in rights and opportunities.

Brothers and sisters,

Throughout ages, Asian women have been, and still are, a symbol of power and resilience. They have proven their ability to contribute to building communities despite all the challenges. But today, in a rapidly changing world that requires innovation and sustainability, we must be serious in empowering women and providing them an environment that allows them to succeed and create.

Here comes our responsibility as women parliamentarians and parliamentarians as a whole in promoting this process, by providing policies and legislations that ensure protecting women rights and open wider horizons for them to participate in various field. Our role is not limited to speaking on behalf of women but extends to creating environment that allows them to achieve their full potential whether in politics, economics, or any of the other vital fields.



Your Excellency the President

Your Excellencies Members of Parliaments

Thanks to the wise leadership of His Majesty King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa, may Allah protect him, my country, the Kingdom of Bahrain, has achieved great accomplishments in the field of women empowerment, accomplishments witnessed far and close, and in this regard I cannot help but to praise the pioneer role of the Supreme Council for Women lead by Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka Bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, wife of His Majesty the King of the country may Allah protect her, and her endless support in achieving this progress and prosperity for Bahraini women.

Today, the Kingdom of Bahrain is considered – and rightly so- a bright model for gender equality, as Bahraini women have proven their active presence in various decision-making positions, which contributed significantly to achieving sustainable development.

Distinguished attendees,

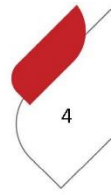
Your Excellencies respected Members of the Committee,

Achieving gender equality is not just a goal, but rather an urgent necessity, and based on this vision, I am pleased to announce that the Parliamentary Group of the Kingdom of Bahrain is in the process of submitting a draft resolution to this respected committee regarding promoting gender equality. This draft target developing policies that support equal participation between genders in all aspects of life, with focusing on removing structural and social obstacles that comes in the way of women reaching leadership and decision-making positions.

Distinguished attendees,

Concerted Asian efforts to enhance the role of women in our communities must be our top priority. Through joint cooperation between our parliaments, let's set policies that would encourage on





equality and justice and ensure an environment that allows women to contribute effectively to building better future.

We, in this important gathering, have a great opportunity to make the desired change. We must realize that empowering women is not just a fundamental right, but rather an investment in a brighter and more sustainable future.

In conclusion, I would like to reaffirm our full commitment to continue working on enhancing the role of women and achieving gender equality. We are also sure that our draft resolution will gain your support because it represents a real step towards building more equal and comprehensive Asian communities.

Peace, Mercy and Blessings of God be upon you.