

# Asian Parliamentary Assembly

## APA Working Group on Statutory Documents



Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain  
8-9 December 2024



## Background Paper

Updating the objectives and reforming the rules of procedure governing an international organization is a critical endeavor in addressing emerging challenges. For this reason, the APA, like other dynamic international organizations, took proactive steps by establishing this Working Group as a reform mechanism to update its statutory documents.

1. During the APA Executive Council Meeting in October 2019, held in Rize, Türkiye, participants unanimously decided to revise and update the APA Statutory Documents to revitalize its role as an inter-parliamentary organization. This decision remains the sole mandate and point of reference for the Working Group (WG).
2. The purpose of the WG is to update the APA Statutory Documents to create a more efficient and systematic framework. This objective remains its primary focus.
3. The WG comprises members from Türkiye, Iran, Iraq, Russia, Cambodia, Bahrain, Kuwait, and Palestine.
4. Following the Executive Council's decision, the Parliament of Kuwait invited the WG members to convene the First Session of the WG in Kuwait City in February 2020. However, the meeting was canceled due to the outbreak of COVID-19 in January 2020.
5. The First Session of the WG was eventually held in October 2021 in Ürgüp, Türkiye. Hosted and chaired by the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye, the meeting was attended by parliamentary delegations from Bahrain, Iran, Kuwait, Palestine, and Türkiye as WG members, along with delegations from Indonesia, Jordan, Pakistan, and the UAE in their capacity as “interested countries.”

6. During the First Session, the WG adopted procedures for considering and adopting amendments to the relevant documents. The WG also agreed to address the basic documents in the following order: Charter, Rules of Procedure, and Financial Regulations.
7. Over two sessions, participating delegations extensively discussed the draft amendments to the APA Charter, successfully revising the text up to Article 5. The Chairperson announced that the next WG meeting would be held alongside the Executive Council meeting in Türkiye.
8. At the 13th APA Plenary in January 2023 in Antalya, Türkiye, H.E. Professor Şentop, APA President, emphasized in his opening statement the necessity of revising the current structure and regulations, enhancing institutional efficiency, and addressing payment contributions to transform the APA into a significant parliamentary forum.
9. Following this, the APA Secretary-General sent several communications to APA members seeking their input on the WG's progress on statutory documents.
10. The Second Session of the WG on Statutory Documents took place on July 11, 2023, in Tehran, hosted and chaired by the Islamic Parliament of Iran. Delegations from Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Palestine, Russia, and Türkiye participated as WG members, while delegations from Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, China, Cyprus, India, Indonesia, Lebanon, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, the UAE, and Vietnam attended as "interested countries."
11. At this session, the APA Secretary-General highlighted that the 16-year track record of APA programs demonstrates the need for further progress. The establishment of the WG in October 2019 in Rize marked an initial step to develop an inclusive plan encouraging greater contributions from all members and promoting parliamentary cooperation.
12. During the Second Session, some countries emphasized the importance of addressing APA's revitalization and capacity-building issues, while others expressed concern that focusing on structural and revitalization topics might not yield tangible outcomes. The Chairperson tasked the APA Secretariat with summarizing the meeting for the Executive Council to guide future actions.

13. The Secretariat presented the Second Session's report to the Executive Council in November 2023 in Antalya, Türkiye. The Executive Council was tasked with determining the date, venue, and host for the Third Session of the WG on Statutory Documents.
14. In the absence of the Kuwaiti delegation, the Bahraini delegation announced that the National Assembly of Kuwait would soon invite the WG members to the Third Session.
15. On May 10, 2024, the Parliament of Kuwait suspended (dissolved), leaving the fate of the Third Session uncertain.
16. At the First APA Bureau Meeting on the sidelines of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs in September 2024 in Moscow, the Bureau decided that WG meetings would be concurrent with Standing Committee meetings in 2024.
17. At the Second APA Bureau Meeting on the sidelines of the Standing Committee on Budget and Planning in November 2024 in Doha, it was decided that a WG meeting would be held alongside the Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development in Bahrain on December 8-9, 2024. During this meeting, discussions would focus on Article 8 (Number of Votes) and Article 13 (Voting) of the APA Charter.

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