



The 15th Plenary Session

Baku, Azerbaijan
19-20 February 2025

Final Report

“The Role of Parliamentary Diplomacy in Strengthening Multilateral Cooperation in Asia”

Inaugural Session

The Inaugural Session of the 15th APA Plenary was held on 19 February 2025, in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan.

Parliamentary delegations from following member countries participated in the meeting:

Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Lebanon, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, UAE, and Uzbekistan.

Observer Parliaments:

National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus,

Observer Organizations:

IPC, IPACIS, League of Parliamentarians for Al Quds, TURKPA, PABSEC, PUIC,

Special guest:

CICA

[\(Attachment I\)](#)

The following dignitaries presented their statements at the inaugural ceremony:

- H.E. Ms. Sahiba GAFAROVA, Speaker of the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan, APA President
- H.E. Mohammad Reza MAJIDI, the APA Secretary-General
- H.E. Speaker of Shura Council of the Kingdom of Bahrain
- H.E. Speaker of the National Assembly of Bhutan
- H.E. Speaker of the House of Rep. of Indonesia
- H.E. Speaker of the Islamic Parliament of Iran
- H.E. Chairman of the Senate of Pakistan
- H.E. Chairman of the Parliament of Tajikistan
- H.E. Chairperson of the Senate of Uzbekistan
- H.E. Chairman of the Shura Council of Oman
- H.E. Chairman of the Council of Rep. of Belarus
- H.E. First Deputy Speaker of Fed. National Council of UAE
- H.E. Vice President of Palestine National Council
- H.E. Second Deputy Speaker of Parliament of Jordan
- H.E. Second Deputy Speaker of House of Rep. of Thailand
- H.E. MP/ Grand National Assembly of Türkiye

[\(Attachment II\)](#)

At the end of the Inaugural Session the Speaker of the Milli Majlis of Azerbaijan announced that H.E. Rizvan Nabiyeu the Head of the delegation of Azerbaijan to APA, will be her representative at the 15th APA Plenary.

The 15th APA Plenary Session

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda of the 15th Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly was adopted unanimously. ([Attachment III](#))

2. Election of the Bureau

The Bureau of the 15th APA Plenary is consisted of the following member states:

Chairperson : Azerbaijan

Vice- Chair : Lao

Rapporteur : Iraq

Members of the Bureau of the 15th APA Plenary were elected by acclamation.

3. Report of the Chairperson of the Executive Council

H.E. Rizvan Nabiyeu the Head of the delegation of Azerbaijan and the chair of the Executive Council presented the report of the Executive Council for adoption. ([Attachment IV](#))

4. Report of the Secretary General on the work of the Organization

The APA Secretary General in his report to the Plenary covered the activities and the achievements of four Standing Committees as well as other important programs of the APA between 14th and 15th Plenary Session. ([Attachment V](#))

5. Adoption of the full membership of the Sultanate of Oman

The Plenary endorsed the APA full membership of the Sultanate of Oman recommended by Executive Council.

6. Adoption of the Observer status of Republic of Belarus

The Plenary endorsed APA Observer status of the Republic of Belarus

recommended by Executive Council.

7. General Debate: Statements by Head of Delegations on “*Role of Parliamentary Diplomacy in Strengthening Multilateral Cooperation in Asia*”

Head of Delegations addressed the theme of the 15th APA Plenary as well as other topics of their interests under this Agenda item.

The Head of Delegations of the following member Parliaments, Observer Parliaments and Organizations addressed the 15th APA Plenary:

Cambodia, China, Cyprus, India, Kazakhstan, Russia, Iraq, Lebanon, Indonesia, Qatar, Black Sea Cooperation, CICA, Laos, IA CIS, League of Parliaments of Al Quds, IPC

([Attachment VI](#))

8. Meeting of the Standing Committees

Parallel to the general debates in the Plenary Hall, the meeting of four Standing Committees were held to consider and approve the relevant documents on their agenda.

9. Meeting of the Drafting Committee on Declaration

An open-ended drafting committee on Baku Declaration was held. The interested delegations participated and reviewed the draft text offered by host country Azerbaijan. After an extensive exchange of views, the Baku Declaration was adopted. ([Attachment VII](#)).

1. The delegation of Parliament of the Islamic Republic of Iran, registered its reservation by stating that: “Documents adopted by the current meeting on Palestine should not explicitly or implicitly be construed in any way as recognition of the Israeli Zionist Regime.” The delegation of the Parliament of the Islamic Republic of Iran expressed its reservation regarding paragraph 9 of the Baku Declaration and emphasized that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) should be achieved in accordance with the national laws of the Member Parliaments.

2. The following statement was received by the APA Secretariat from Parliamentary delegation of Russian Federation: *"During the discussions at the Drafting Committee the delegation of the Russian Federation has requested to amend one of the paragraphs of the Baku Declaration with a view to exclude bilateral contentious issues from the text in accordance with the Rule 21 of the APA Rules of Procedure. This request was disregarded by the Chair. The Russian delegation has stressed that points which don't enjoy consensus should be amended or deleted.*

Although the meeting of the Drafting Committee on Declaration was concluded, debates over the specific paragraph of the declaration between concerned delegations continued on the initiative of the Chair. Despite the arguments of the Russian delegation the text remained unchanged.

Due to the lack of consensus, the delegation of the Russian Federation informed the APA Secretary General in a written form of its views and requested the Secretariat to draw the APA Parliaments' attention to this matter". ([Attachment VIII](#))

3. Secretariat received an official letter from Parliament of India expressing her reservations on Operative Paragraph 5 of the Baku Declaration. ([Attachment XV](#)).

10. Reports of the Standing Committees on:

- Social and Cultural Affairs ([Attachment IX](#))
- Budget and Planning ([Attachment X](#))
- Economic and Sustainable Development ([Attachment XI](#))
- Political Affairs ([Attachment XII](#))

11. Approval of the APA Vice-Presidents for 2025

The 15th Plenary considered and endorsed its Vice Presidents and the Chair of four Standing Committees as follows:

- Iran: Standing Committee on Political Affairs
- Russian Federation: Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs
- Qatar: Standing Committee on Budget and Planning
- Bahrain: Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development

12. Nomination of APA President for 2026-8

Based on the recommendation of the Executive Council for the future APA Presidency, the 15th APA Plenary endorsed the Kingdom of Bahrain for the position of the APA Presidency for 2026 and the Islamic Republic of Iran for the position of APA Presidency for 2027-2028. Chairman presented the attached “Decision” which was unanimously adopted by the 15th Plenary. ([Attachment XIII](#))

13. Adoption of the amendments to the APA Charter and Rules of Procedure recommended by the Executive Council

The Plenary approved the amendments to the Article 5 and 8 of APA Charter and Rules 15 and 34.1 of the APA Rules of Procedure recommended by the Executive Council. ([Attachment XIV](#))

15. Any other matter

No issues were raised.



Asian Parliamentary Assembly The 15th Plenary Session

List of Participants

*February 17-21, 2025
Baku, Azerbaijan*

Azerbaijan

1. Ms. Sahiba Gafarova
Speaker of the Milli Majlis
2. Mr. Rizvan Nabiyev
Head of the Delegation to
the APA
3. Mr. Ilham Mammadov
Member of the
Delegation to the APA
4. Mr. Aydın Huseynov
Member of the
Delegation to the APA
5. Ms. Gunay Aghamali
Member of the
Delegation to the APA
6. Mr. Nagif Hamzayev
Member of the
Delegation to the APA
7. Mr. Farid Hajiyev
Chief of Staff
8. Mr. Teymur Taghiyev
Head of the Secretariat
9. Mr. İlkin Mammadov
Head of the International
relations department
10. Ms. Aynur Nurahmadova
Assistant to the Speaker
11. Mr. Elmar Huseynov
Assistant to the Speaker
12. Ms. Nafila Rahimova
Secretary of the
Delegation

Bahrain

13. Mr. Ali Saleh Abdulla Alsaleh
Chairman of the Shura
Council
14. Mr. Ahmed Alsalloom
Member of Parliament
15. Mr. Abdulaziz Abul
Member of Parliament
16. Ms. Jameela Alsalman
Member of Parliament
17. Mr. Abdulhakeem Alshanoo
Member of Parliament
18. Mr. Hani Alsaati
Member of Parliament
19. Mr. Husain Alhusaini
Staff
20. Mr. Mohamed Bindaina
Staff

21. Mr. Sayed Ali Mohamed

Media

Belarus

22. Ms. Natallia Kachanova
Council of Republic of the

Chairperson of the

23. Mr. Vadzim Ipatau
House of
Representatives

National Assembly
Deputy Chairman of the

24. Mr. Sergei Aleinik
25. Mr. Uladzislau Tatarynovich
26. Ms. Maryna Ilyina
27. Mr. Mikhail Rusy
28. Mr. Dzmitry Pinevich
29. Ms. Katsiaryna Zhaneuskaya
30. Mr. Andrei Taranda
31. Ms. Alena Misun
32. Ms. Aksana Melnikovich
33. Mr. Vladimir Chushev
34. Ms. Alesya Vysotskaya
35. Mr. Aliaksandr Mahuchy
36. Mr. Andrei Lukashin
37. Mr. Aliaksandr Piatrovich

Member of Parliament
Member of Parliament
Member of Parliament
Member of Parliament
Ambassador
Staff
Staff
Staff
Staff
Staff of embassy
Media
Media
Security
Security

Bhutan

38. Mr. Lungten Dorji
Assembly
39. Mr. Kinzang Wangchuk
40. Ms. Sonam Dema

Speaker of the National
Member of Parliament
Staff

Cambodia

41. Mr. Chanphal Ngy
42. Mr. Pe A Cheam
43. Mr. Sokhem Pech
44. Mr. Meng Huoth Penh

Head of the Delegation
Member of Parliament
Staff
Staff

China

45. Mr. Xiaoyu Gu
46. Mr. Xingmin Zhang
47. Ms. Dong Hou
48. Ms. Mengyuan Qi
49. Ms. Mo Li
50. Mr. Yilin Xie
51. Ms. Lu Peng
52. Mr. Kun Shen

Head of the Delegation
Member of Parliament
Staff
Staff
Staff
Staff of embassy
Interpreter
Interpreter

Cyprus

53.Mr. Nicolaos Tornaritis Head of the Delegation
54.Ms. Loukia Mouyi Staff

India

55.Mr. Kamakhya Prasad Tasa Head of Delegation
56.Ms. Kiran Choudhry Member of Parliament
57.Ms. Aradhita Singh Staff
58.Mr. Yogendra Singh Staff
59.Mr. Sanjay Jain Counsellor
60.Mr. Amar Nath Sharma Staff of embassy
61.Mr. Ekhtiram Jabiyev Media

Indonesia

62.Mr. Puan Maharani Speaker of the House of
Representatives
63.Mr. Mardani Ali Serah Member of Parliament
64.Mr. Musa Rajekshah Member of Parliament
65.Ms. Arzeti Bilbina Setyawan Member of Parliament
66.Mr. Robert Joppy Kardinal Member of Parliament
67.Mr. Syahrul Aidi Maazat Member of Parliament
68.Mr. Gilang Dhielafararez Member of Parliament
69.Mr. Charles Honoris Member of Parliament
70.Mr. Ghulam Mohamad Sharon Member of Parliament
71.Ms. Iis Muldiyanti Staff
72.Ms. Diah Aty Rachmawaty Staff
73.Ms. Made Fitri Maya Padmi Staff
74.Mr. Mochamad Ilyas Staff
75.Mr. Toferry Primanda Soetikno Staff
76.Ms. Siti Nurhaza Staff
77.Ms. Vigita Andantio Syfia Staff
78.Ms. Destriana Rachma Riandini Staff
79.Ms. Merita Yenni Charge d'Affaires
80.Mr. Parvana Karimova Staff of embassy
81.Mr. Desiyusman Mendrofa Media
82.Mr. Theodorusz Iqnatius Ramayana Media
83.Mr. Andri Triana Media
84.Ms. Yuliana Tansil Interpreter
85.Mr. Alfian Ghulam Athoillah Security

Iran

86.Mr. Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf Speaker of the Islamic
Consultative Assembly
87.Mr. Mohsen Zanganeh Member of Parliament
88.Mr. Ali Reza Salimi Member of Parliament
89.Mr. Abbas Papizadeh Balangan Member of Parliament
90.Ms. Shahin Jahangiri Member of Parliament

91. Ms. Fatemeh Jarareh	Member of Parliament
92. Mr. Sodeif Badri	Member of Parliament
93. Mr. Amir Hossein Hosseini	Staff
94. Mr. Mohammad Ali Noudeh	Staff
95. Ms. Leila Taati	Staff
96. Mr. Hasan Ashtari	Staff
97. Mr. Ali Haji Mohammadi	Staff
98. Mr. Jalal Aboulhassani Chimeh	Staff
99. Mr. Alireza Soltani Mohammadi	Staff
100. Mr. Naser Ghahremani Jangloo	Staff
101. Mr. Emad Afkhami	Staff
102. Mr. Akbar Khorrami Mashkani	Interpreter
103. Mr. Reza Latifi	Security
104. Mr. Mahmoud Fadaei	Security
105. Mr. Masoud Elahi	Security
106. Mr. Mahmoud Moradi	Security
107. Mr. Abolfazl Amouei	Staff
108. Mr. Kazem Shafei	Staff
109. Mr. Kazem Gharib Abadi	Staff
110. Mr. Mohammad Saeed Ahadian	Staff
111. Mr. Mojtaba Damirchiloo	Staff
112. Mr. Seyed Mohammad Yasrebi	Staff
113. Mr. Seyyed Abbas Hasannia Moghaddam	Staff
114. Mr. Iman Shamsaei Ghahyazi	Staff
115. Mr. Mahdi Zolghadr	Staff
116. Mr. Amir Zellati	Staff
117. Mr. Amin Aeini	Staff
118. Mr. Ali Reza Farazi	Interpreter
119. Mr. Adel Abdullahy	Interpreter
120. Mr. Moslem Nouri	Staff
121. Mr. Morteza Soleymani	Security
122. Mr. Peyman Yarahmadi	Security
123. Mr. Mohammad Nemati	Security
124. Mr. Seyed Mohammad Mosavi	Security
125. Mr. Mohammad Reza Sadeghi	Security
126. Mr. Amir Hossein Yazdanpanah Shourabi	Media
127. Mr. Hamed Malek Pour	Media
128. Mr. Shahram Namvar Zahra	Media
129. Mr. Ali Mari	Media
130. Ms. Fatemeh Alikhani	Media
131. Mr. Alireza Salehi	Media
132. Mr. Mohsen Khazaei	Media
133. Ms. Sara Mohseni Niyagarh	Media
134. Mr. Hadi Soltani	Media
135. Mr. Seyed Jafar Aghaei Maryan	Charge d'Affaires
136. Mr. Mohammad Javad Emamian	Staff of embassy

Iraq

137. Mr. Jabbar Frayyeh Abbas Al-Kinani	Head of the Delegation
138. Ms. Vian Sabri Abdulhaleq Al-Qadi	Member of Parliament
139. Mr. Haider Habeeb Majeed Al-Selami	Member of Parliament
140. Mr. Bashar Hammoodi Khalaf Al-Janabi	Staff
141. Mr. Alaa Naser Atiyah Atiyah	Staff
142. Mr. Mustafa Saleh Lateef Lateef	Staff
143. Ms. Ban Ali Kadhim Al-Hakeem	Charge d'Affaires
144. Ms. Zainab Abdulkareem Abdulrasool	Staff of embassy

Jordan

145. Mr. Ahmad Hamisat	Head of the Delegation
146. Mr. Hakam Al Muadat	Member of Parliament
147. Ms. Arwa Alzboon	Member of Parliament
148. Mr. Mohammad Albustanji	Member of Parliament
149. Mr. Tareq Bani-Hani	Member of Parliament
150. Mr. Abdel Ra'Oof Rbeihat	Member of Parliament
151. Mr. Saleh Abu-Tayeh	Member of Parliament
152. Ms. Mai Ali Alyazadneh	Member of Parliament
153. Mr. Salah Alhemadi	Staff
154. Mr. Mohammad Alzfeifi	Staff

Kazakhstan

155. Mr. Altynbek Nukhuly (Senate)	Head of the Delegation
156. Mr. Islam Sungkar (Mazhilis)	Head of the Delegation

Kyrgyzstan

157. Mr. Aibek Matkerimov	Head of the Delegation
158. Mr. Maksat Mamytkanov	Ambassador
159. Mr. Maksat Madalbekov	Consul

Lebanon

160. Mr. Hachem Kassem	Head of the Delegation
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Laos

161. Mr. Phonesane Vilaymeng	Head of the Delegation
162. Mr. Chanthone Louangphane	Staff

Oman

163. Mr. Khalid Hilal Nasser Al Maawali Council	Chairman of the Shura
164. Mr. Younis Ali Azan Al Mandhari	Member of Parliament

165. Mr. Salim Ali Ahmed Kalshat Al Mahri	Member of Parliament
166. Mr. Hamdoon Hamood Ghaneem Hamid Al Fazari	Member of Parliament
167. Mr. Hamdoon 'Abdullah Hamdoon Al Harthy	Staff
168. Mr. Jalal Juma Al-Mur Al-Hamrashdi	Staff
169. Mr. Sulaiman Said Salim Al Rawahi	Staff

Pakistan

170. Mr. Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani	Chairman of the Senate
171. Mr. Muhammad Tallal Badar	Member of Parliament
172. Mr. Poonjo Bheel	Member of Parliament
173. Mr. Ifran Ali Laghari	Member of Parliament
174. Mr. Farhan Chishti	Member of Parliament
175. Mr. Anjum Aqeel Khan	Member of Parliament
176. Mr. Khurram Shahzad Virk	Member of Parliament
177. Mr. Aizaz Khan	Staff
178. Mr. Hammad Khan Marri	Staff
179. Mr. Hassan Farooq Dar	Staff
180. Mr. Zeshan Qamar Sheikh	Staff

Palestine

181. Mr. Ali Faysal	Head of the Delegation
182. Mr. Nasser Abdalwahab	Ambassador
183. Ms. Miar Rantisi	Staff of embassy

Qatar

184. Mr. Ahmad Hitmi Al-Hitmi	Head of the Delegation
185. Mr. Nasser Metrif Al-Hemaidi	Member of Parliament
186. Mr. Saoud Jassim Al-Buainain	Member of Parliament
187. Mr. Mohamed Hamad Al-Hajri	Ambassador
188. Mr. Hamad Issa Al-Hamadi	Staff
189. Mr. Nasser Mohammed Al-Maadeed	Staff
190. Ms. Muneera Khalifa Al-Sowaidi	Staff
191. Ms. Alya Mohammed Al-Bader	Staff

Russia

192. Mr. Gennady Ordenov	Head of the Delegation
193. Mr. Bair Zhamsuev	Member of Parliament
194. Mr. Mikhail Evdokimov	Ambassador
195. Ms. Olga Folomeeva	Staff
196. Mr. Yury Saplin-Silanovitskiy	Staff
197. Mr. Nikita Baraz	Staff of embassy
198. Ms. Veronika Belousova	Interpreter
199. Ms. Daria Skvortsova	Interpreter

Saudi Arabia

200. Mr. Ali Saad Alali	Member of Parliament
201. Mr. Fares Abdullah Alosaimi	Member of Parliament
202. Ms. Sarah Soliman Gasem	Member of Parliament
203. Mr. Essam Saleh Algetale	Ambassador
204. Mr. Khalid Mohammed Almansour	Staff
205. Mr. Khalid Abdulkarim Alturki	Staff
206. Mr. Abdulaziz Mohammed Alajaleen	Staff
207. Ms. Lamyaa Mohammed Bin Suwaydan	Staff
208. Mr. Fahad Abdulrahman Aldughaiter	Staff
209. Ms. Malak Asgarova	Interpreter

Tajikistan

210. Mr. Mahmadoir Zokirzoda namoyandagon of the Majlisi Oli	Chairman of the Majlisi
211. Mr. Jamshed Murtazozoda	Member of Parliament
212. Mr. Muhamadullo Sheralizoda	Member of Parliament
213. Mr. Zainudin Safarzoda	Member of Parliament
214. Mr. Ilhom Abdurahmon	Ambassador
215. Mr. Abdujabor Sattorzoda	Chief of Staff
216. Mr. Qadriddin Gadozoda	Staff
217. Mr. Abdusamad Esankulov	Staff
218. Mr. Parviz Sunatulloev	Interpreter
219. Mr. Mahmadjon Zohirov	Security

Thailand

220. Mr. Paradorn Prissanantakul	Head of Delegation
221. Mr. Worawit Baru	Member of Parliament
222. Mr. Romtham Khumnurak	Member of Parliament
223. Mr. Lae Dilokvidhyarat	Member of Parliament
224. Ms. Chayanant Tiyatrakarnchai	Member of Parliament
225. Mr. Apirat Sugondhabhirom	Ambassador
226. Ms. Kanjanaporn Lueangkajonvit	Staff
227. Ms. Alisa Kosup	Staff
228. Ms. Steejit Taipiboonsuk	Staff
229. Ms. Krisanee Masrichan	Staff
230. Ms. Kanteera Leelanond	Staff
231. Mr. Panya Kotthen	Staff
232. Mr. Russdy Khantanit	Staff
233. Ms. Kannikar Phonphat	Staff
234. Mr. Pattrapong Issariyapruet	Staff
235. Ms. Pathomporn Raksapolmuang	Staff
236. Mr. Pipat Charoensuk	Staff of embassy

Türkiye

237. Mr. Abdulkadir Emin Önen	Head of the Delegation
238. Mr. Ömer Özmen	Member of Parliament
239. Mr. Vecdi Gündoğdu	Member of Parliament
240. Mr. Osman Cengiz Çandar	Member of Parliament
241. Mr. Birol Akgun	Ambassador
242. Mr. Murat Hastürk	Staff
243. Mr. Mehmet Yahya Çiçekli	Staff
244. Mr. Harun Ipek	Staff
245. Mr. Okan Erkan	Staff
246. Mr. Tefik Yavuzek	Staff of embassy
247. Ms. Mine Tepe	Interpreter
248. Ms. Nazli Mutlu	Interpreter

United Arab Emirates

249. Mr. Tariq Humaid Matar Mohd Altayer	Head of the Delegation
250. Ms. Fatima Ali Humaid Saeed Almheiri	Member of Parliament
251. Mr. Mohamed Essa Obaid Alkashef Al Ali	Member of Parliament
252. Mr. Khaled Omar Rashid Alkharji	Member of Parliament
253. Ms. Nedal Mohammed Alteneiji	Member of Parliament
254. Mr. Mohammed Al Blooshi	Ambassador
255. Ms. Afra Rashed Eid Albasti	Staff
256. Ms. Hamda Ali Alblooshi	Staff
257. Mr. Abdulla Ali Obaid Almadhani Alaleeli	Staff
258. Mr. Saeed Khamis Abdulla Almheiri	Staff
259. Mr. Abdelrahman Alhammadi	Staff
260. Ms. Hind Ahmed Rashid Alhosan Alshamsi	Staff
261. Mr. Yusif Hajiyeve	Staff of embassy
262. Mr. Nasir Maharramov	Media
263. Mr. Boyukagha Naghiyev	Media

Uzbekistan

264. Ms. Tanzila Narbaeva Senate of the Oliy Majlis	Chairperson of the
265. Mr. Kutbidin Burkhanov	Member of Parliament
266. Mr. Ilkhom Abdullaev	Member of Parliament
267. Mr. Bakhrom Ashrafkhanov	Ambassador
268. Mr. Azamjon Mansurov	Staff
269. Mr. Jamshid Gapparov	Staff
270. Mr. Akhmed Mansurov	Staff of embassy
271. Mr. Jurabek Mardaev	Media
272. Ms. Shakhrizod Gulyamova	Interpreter

APA Secretariat

273. Mr. Mohammad Reza Majidi	Secretary General
274. Mr. Kia Tabatabaee General	Deputy Secretary
275. Mr. Mehdi Ghashghavi	Staff

276. Mr. Mehdi Mollahosseini Staff

Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA)

– *Special Guest*

277. Mr. Kairat Sarybay Secretary General

278. Ms. Tomiris Batayeva Staff

International Parliamentarians Congress (IPC) – (observer)

279. Mr. Abdelrahim Falah Obeidallah Al-Maaia President

280. Mr. Mohammad Suleiman Mufleh Alshawabkeh Member of Organisation

Interparliamentary Assembly of member nations of the CIS (IPA CIS) –

(observer)

281. Mr. Dmitrii Kobitskii Secretary General

282. Mr. Nizami Safarov Chair of the Commission

on Social Policy and
Human Rights of the IPA CIS

283. Mr. Aydin Jafarov Deputy Secretary

General of the IPA CIS
Council – Plenipotentiary Representative of
the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan

284. Mr. Ramin Rzayev Director of the Baku

Branch of IIMDD of the
IPA CIS

League of Parliamentarians for Al Quds – (observer)

285. Mr. Hamid Abdullah Hussein Al-Ahmar President

286. Mr. Mohammad Makram Omar Moh'd Balawi Staff

Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC) –

(observer)

287. Mr. Asaf Hajiyev Secretary General

Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic States (TURKPA) – (observer)

288. Mr. Fuad Alakbarov Deputy Secretary

General

Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States (PUIC) – (observer)

289. Mr. Osama Mahmoud Abdelfattah Mohamed Advisor to the Secretary

General

Attachment II

Statement by H.E. Speaker of the Milli Majlis of Azerbaijan

The 15th Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly

“Role of parliamentary diplomacy in strengthening multilateral cooperation in Asia”

19 February 2025

Honorable Speakers of Parliaments,
Honorable Vice Speakers of Parliaments,
Distinguished Secretary General,
Distinguished colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure and honor to greet you all in the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the occasion of the 15th Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly. Welcome to Azerbaijan.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to representatives of all parliaments and international organizations for accepting our invitation and participating in this plenary session. It is a sign of our firm intention and dedication in further enhancing our cooperation and strengthening this platform.

Dear colleagues,

Exactly one year ago the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan took over the presidency of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly. We have put forward several priorities for our presidency on further strengthening our joint work - development of institutional capacity of the APA, expanding our ranks, reinvigorating and increasing the effectiveness of the existing bodies.

I would like to inform our plenary session that yesterday's meeting of the Executive Council of the Assembly considered two applications: the application of the Shura Council of the Sultanate of Oman for the full membership of the Assembly. And the application of the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus for the status of observer in the Asian Parliamentary Assembly.

It is pleasing to note that the Executive Council has made a recommendation to the plenary for a decision. I believe, our plenary will positively respond to these two applications, adopt relevant decisions and thus expand our ranks.

I, in my turn, as the President of the APA would like to thank both speakers of parliaments - my dear friends, His Excellency, Mr. Sheikh Khalid bin Hilal Al Mawali and Her Excellency, Ms. Natalia Kochanova, for their eagerness to contribute to the work of our Assembly.

Dear colleagues,

We are pleased that certain developments have been taking place in the context of revision and amendment of statutory documents, with the aim of further optimizing our organization's institutional capacity.

It should also be noted that we are close to reaching a consensus on the decision to form the APA budget, which is very important for further strengthening and increasing the Assembly's capabilities.

Another achievement of the past year has been the activation of the APA Bureau meetings. Our proposal on revitalization of Bureau's work has been duly met. Thus, during each meeting of the Standing Committees, Bureau meetings are also being held, which is aimed at responding promptly to the needs of the organization.

And taking this opportunity, I would like to express my gratitude to Mr. Mohammad Reza Majidi, the Secretary General of the APA and the Secretariat for their continuous efforts on development of our organization and advancement of its goals.

Distinguished colleagues,

The theme of our today's plenary session is the "Role of parliamentary diplomacy in strengthening multilateral cooperation in Asia". Taking into consideration the state of affairs in international politics and the current situation around the world, the issue of multilateral cooperation has never been as important as now.

Humanitarian crises, conflicts, poverty, climate change, rise of discrimination, racism, xenophobia and Islamophobia.

Indeed, all these challenges that our world faces and the question of how to deal with them inevitably bring forward the issue of efficiency of today's international relations system.

Regretfully, today, the world has become more fractured and less peaceful. And many argue about the ineffectiveness of multilateral mechanisms.

Dear colleagues,

And now, as the Speaker of the Milli Majlis, I would like to take this opportunity and share with you the views of my country Azerbaijan on this issue.

Let me say that Azerbaijan, whose internationally recognized territories were left under occupation by its neighbor Armenia for 30 years despite all norms and principles of international law, resolutions and decisions of international organizations, unfortunately, was one of the main victims of inefficiency of today's system.

Our country singlehandedly implemented all these norms, principles and resolutions by liberating its territories, restoring its territorial integrity and sovereignty. So, we are well aware of the urgency of this matter.

Distinguished colleagues,

As put forward by His Excellency, Mr. Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, what the world really needs now is full respect for international commitments.

Indeed, the truth is that non-compliance with norms and principles of international law, application of double standards and selective approaches, interference in internal affairs of states have been the main source of all contradictions and tensions that we face today.

So, the question comes up: how to end all of it?

It is evident that the most reliable way to turn this negative trend around and achieve peace, stability and prosperity in the world is to strengthen multilateral system. A system, where all countries respect the rules, hold each other accountable through collective and legitimate means, help each other and reject unilateral approaches that give preference to the interests of one state over another.

Azerbaijan has always been a strong supporter of effective and inclusive multilateral system in line with aforementioned principles. A 4-year chairmanship in the Non-Aligned Movement, during which Azerbaijan proactively worked on institutional development of the Movement and promoted dialogue, cooperation and solidarity among the member states is a clear demonstration of this approach.

And selection of Azerbaijan as the host country of the COP29 with unanimous support of global community, adoption of important decisions under Azerbaijan's leadership in the framework of the COP29 have been the pinnacle of our country's unwavering commitment to multilateralism: ability to build bridges, bring together different stakeholders and unite Global North and Global South behind the common cause – the issue of dealing with the challenge of climate change, which threatens all humanity.

Dear colleagues,

Active involvement of our parliament in multilateral cooperation is, in fact, continuation of this approach.

Our parliament together with the Inter-Parliamentary Union organized the Parliamentary Meeting in the framework of the COP29, which provided parliamentary contribution to multilateral climate action. I thank member parliaments of the APA for their active participation in this meeting.

I would also like to note that the Milli Majlis is involved in the work of the various parliamentary organizations and today, chairs another 4 interparliamentary organizations, along with the APA, namely Parliamentary Assembly of Economic Cooperation Organization, Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic States, Parliamentary Assembly of Black Sea Economic Cooperation and Parliamentary Network of the Non-Aligned Movement. Such an activity reflects our parliament's strong belief in multilateral parliamentary diplomacy.

Let me especially to note that the Parliamentary Network of the Non-Aligned Movement has been established upon the initiative of His Excellency, Mr. Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, which is another significant contribution to multilateralism by our country.

Dear colleagues,

Indeed, one of the main points of the current stage of development of parliamentarism is that the activities of parliaments are no longer limited with national borders and already extend to regional and global levels.

This reflects the understanding that we, parliamentarians, as the representatives of our people, have a strong role to play in finding solutions to the challenges that concern all of us.

Parliamentary cooperation platforms prove our commitment and determination to work together for a better world. As such, interparliamentary organizations are a vivid example of constructive dialogue, cooperation and solidarity.

In this sense, the Asian Parliamentary Assembly represents a significant multilateral institution for these purposes. The Asian region has become increasingly important in solving global problems. And the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, which unites us all under its umbrella, makes our voices heard and provides parliamentary contribution to the efforts of our countries for achieving common goals.

Distinguished colleagues, dear friends,

I believe, through our joint work, we will be able to fully use the existing potential of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly and maximize its capabilities. Indeed, today's plenary session is a clear expression of our common intention. I wish every success to our event.

I thank you for your attention.



Asian Parliamentary Assembly
Inaugural Session of the APA 15th Plenary
19 February 2025
Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan

Opening Remarks by Secretary General

Madam President,

Honorable speakers,

Esteemed Delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am delighted and deeply honored to address this distinguished gathering of the 15th Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, hosted in the historical city of Baku.

This gathering is a cherished opportunity to extend my warmest welcome to all esteemed participants, who have graciously accepted the kind invitation of **H.E. Sahiba Gafarova, Hon. Speaker of the Milli Majlis of Azerbaijan**, and the APA Secretary General, to participate in this prestigious session.

I would like to express, on behalf of myself, the APA's Permanent Secretariat team, and all delegations present, our deepest gratitude to the Speaker of the Milli Majlis of Azerbaijan and the distinguished officials

of the Government and Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Their exemplary planning and warm hospitality have greatly enriched our experience and provided an excellent foundation for our discussions.

Today, we find ourselves at a crucial crossroads, where significant challenges coexist with unprecedented opportunities. I am filled with confidence and optimism that, under the wise and dynamic leadership of the Milli Majlis of Azerbaijan, the APA will continue to achieve substantial progress in the months ahead, as it has over the past year.

Madam President,

Honorable speakers,

Esteemed Delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Since Azerbaijan assumed the APA Presidency in 2024 with strong collaboration and steadfast commitment, **APA has successfully held regular meetings** of its standing committees, the Bureau, and the sessions of Working Group on Statutory Documents alongside the Standing Committee meetings. We have been able to effectively tackle our programs altogether, and I am pleased to acknowledge that our organization continues to grow and flourish.

The credibility and success of our organization depend on robust cooperation and synergistic efforts among all APA members. In this spirit, I wish to extend my appreciation to the Milli Majlis of Azerbaijan for selecting the central theme of this session: “*The Role of Parliamentary Diplomacy in Strengthening Multilateral Cooperation in Asia.*” I am convinced that **parliamentary diplomacy**, as a complementary tool to traditional diplomatic efforts, is instrumental in addressing complex challenges through a cooperative and strategic approach.

Asian countries are considered to share an important part underscoring their significant influence in the regional and global affairs. In this context, Asian parliaments, as the voices of their people, are well-

positioned to play a transformative role in achieving common goals, leveraging parliamentary diplomacy as an essential tool in both bilateral and multilateral engagements. It is crucial that APA maintains its focus on strengthening multilateralism, making it a central tenet of our future agenda.

As APA Secretary General, I find it essential to emphasize that in today's world, where nations face multifaceted challenges, parliamentary diplomacy must be reinforced more than ever as a powerful tool to prevent the further erosion of international peace and security.

To this end, we, as parliamentarians should spare no effort to invigorate parliamentary diplomacy to defuse every effort currently made to spread **unilateralism** as a bastion intended to extensively and forcefully impose its expansionist policies and dominance over other countries.

I must also draw your attention to **the ongoing humanitarian catastrophe in the Gaza Strip**. Over the past 15 months, Israel's war crimes and the destruction of infrastructure have reduced the enclave to rubble. During this period, the apartheid regime has killed thousands of Palestinians, particularly women and children. Regarding the current ceasefire, I must underscore that there is little hope for its continuation after 15 months of genocidal acts committed by the Zionist entity.

Under these dire circumstances, the APA, as a significant parliamentary platform with a broad membership, has adopted policies in support of the Palestinian people, making the issue of Palestine a central focus of its agenda.

In conclusion, I would like to extend my heartfelt **thanks to all Speakers, Presidents, Vice Presidents, Deputies, and Heads of Delegations from APA member parliaments** who have consistently supported our efforts to promote parliamentary democracy. Your dedication and unwavering support have enabled us to pursue our shared objectives with renewed confidence, ensuring the advancement of our organization.

As we look ahead, let us embrace this opportunity to work hand in hand, fostering cooperation across all levels of our organization. Together, we

can drive parliamentary diplomacy forward, strengthening our bonds and building a brighter future for all member nations of the APA.

Last but not the least, I would like to **welcome the Sultanate of Oman** as the new full member and the **Republic of Belarus** as the new observer among us.

Also, it is a pleasure for all of us to **welcome the Kingdom of Bahrain as the next APA President for 2026 and the Islamic republic of Iran as APA President for 2027-2028.**

Thank you for your kind attention.



འབྲུག་གི་རྒྱལ་ཡོངས་ཚོགས་འདུ
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF BHUTAN



Speaker

Sp-5/

**Statement by the Speaker of the National Assembly of Bhutan
15th Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) Plenary
Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, 17-21 February 2024**

Madam President,
Hon. Speakers/ Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen.

SABAHINIZ XEYIR and Very Good Morning.

1. It is a deep honor and privilege to address this distinguished assembly today. On behalf of His Majesty the King, the people, and the Parliament of Bhutan, I extend my sincere greetings to the President, the Secretary General, and the APA Secretariat, acknowledging your steadfast commitment and tireless efforts in organizing this pivotal event. I also express my profound gratitude to the government and people of the Republic of Azerbaijan for their gracious hospitality and for hosting us in the magnificent city of Baku.
2. The Asian Parliamentary Assembly exemplifies our shared commitment to fostering cooperation, solidarity, and dialogue among the parliaments of Asia. This esteemed forum provides a vital platform to address pressing regional and global challenges, encouraging collaboration to develop and

implement solutions that benefit not only our region but the world at large. It underscores the critical importance of strengthening inter-parliamentary ties, building mutual trust, sharing expertise, and advancing our collective aspirations for peace, stability, and sustainable prosperity.

Madam President,

3. In an era of interconnected challenges—climate change, economic instability, and geopolitical tensions—the 15th Plenary, themed ‘The Role of Parliamentary Diplomacy in Strengthening Multilateral Cooperation in Asia,’ serves as a vital platform for constructive dialogue. It bridges divides, drives collective solutions, and reaffirms our shared commitment to regional unity, collaboration, and peace.
4. This session highlights how parliamentary diplomacy complements and strengthens traditional diplomatic efforts. By fostering open dialogue, building trust, and advancing citizen-centric solutions, we can integrate Gross National Happiness (GNH) values into policymaking—ensuring a balance between economic progress, social equity, and environmental sustainability.

Distinguished Delegates

5. I am honored to share that, under His Majesty the King’s enlightened vision, Bhutan aspires to be a global hub where economic growth harmonizes with mindfulness, sustainability, and well-being. Guided by the philosophy of Gross National Happiness (GNH), this vision places human well-being above economic metrics, shaping diplomatic policies that promote happiness, respect, and cooperation.

His Majesty champions' mindfulness as a unifying force in diplomacy, strengthening Bhutan's commitment to global partnerships and collective problem-solving. By fostering a culture of awareness and empathy, we can work together to address shared challenges and build a more sustainable future.

6. As parliamentarians, we must uphold collaboration and mutual respect, advocating for policies that safeguard both people and the planet. Bhutan remains firmly committed to strengthening parliamentary partnerships and contributing to the shared goals of this assembly.
7. On behalf of the Parliament of Bhutan, I reaffirm our unwavering commitment to the objectives of the APA. We pledge to work together so that our collective efforts reflect the aspirations of a diverse yet united Asia.
8. In closing, I extend my deepest gratitude once again to the Republic of Azerbaijan for hosting us so generously and to the APA Secretariat for the tireless efforts in organizing this significant event. Let us seize this opportunity to strengthen collaboration amongst our parliaments and work together towards a more resilient, harmonious, and prosperous Asia.

Çog(chog) sađ olun / Teşekkür edirem,(**tesh-ek-koor eh-dee-rem**) Tashi Delek and Thank you!

**The Speech of His Excellency, Dr. Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf,
(Speaker of the Islamic Parliament of Iran)**

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

**Madam Sahiba Gafarova, esteemed Speaker of the National Assembly of
the Republic of Azerbaijan,**

Honorable Speakers of the Parliaments,

Distinguished Heads of Asian Parliamentary Delegations,

At the outset, I would like to express my profound pleasure at being present among the esteemed heads of parliaments and parliamentary delegations of the member states of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly. I also extend my gratitude to Madam Sahiba Gafarova, the respected Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Azerbaijan, for hosting this meeting and for their hospitality. Our presence here today signifies the historical bonds and friendship between our two neighboring nations, as well as the expansion of parliamentary relations between us.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The world today is undergoing profound and multidimensional transformations, presenting complex challenges to both regional and international order. As you are well aware, Asia, home to approximately 60% of the world's population, is the cradle of many human civilizations. It is a continent endowed with unique capacities and resources, composed of nations with diverse histories, languages, cultures, and traditions. These factors collectively contribute to the richness and latent strength of Asia in confronting various challenges.

Based on the shared values and commonalities among our nations across this vast continent, each of us, as members of this great family,

holds a deep commitment to peace, friendship, multilateralism, equality, and justice.

I firmly believe that in this era of global interconnectedness, any problem in any corner of the world, with its ripple effects, not only impacts the lives of individuals in the affected country but also influences policies and behaviors across the globe. Regional conflicts, energy insecurity, pandemics, climate change, unlawful and coercive actions, colonial and hegemonic policies, drug trafficking, and similar challenges transcend the borders of regional states and have far-reaching consequences.

In this transitional phase of the global community, multilateralism and cooperative engagement are not merely choices or options; they are fundamental necessities of the current international system, albeit one that faces numerous challenges.

Madam President,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

As representatives of the people of Asia, we must be the voice of all stakeholders and the people of this continent, striving to empower them and ensure their voices are heard. In one clear example, the people of the world, the region, and particularly the suffering people of Gaza, call upon us to be their voice and to halt the unlawful and inhumane actions of the Zionist regime. We all bear a profound historical, legal, moral, and humanitarian responsibility in the face of this grave threat.

Although the Zionist regime failed to achieve its strategic objectives in its recent aggression against Gaza and Lebanon, it has consistently pursued a policy of occupation and aggression throughout its illegitimate existence, with the comprehensive support of the United States and certain other countries.

Over the past year, despite the heavy costs, the popular resistance in the region stood firm against the well-equipped Zionist military, inflicting a strategic defeat on the regime despite its organized genocide and terrorism. However, it is regrettable that in recent months, the Zionists and the United States, following their military and strategic failures in Lebanon and Gaza, have not remained idle and are now plotting new political conspiracies in the region.

The recent baseless statements by the U.S. President regarding American control over Gaza and the forced displacement of the Palestinian people reflect the continuation of colonial and domineering views, exemplifying the disregard for and violation of the rights of the oppressed Palestinian people. This plan represents a form of ethnic cleansing, modern occupation, and apartheid, designed to undermine national identity and suppress the will of the Palestinian people, entirely aligned with the illegitimate interests of the Zionist regime. This inhumane plan could also exacerbate the fragile security of the region, leading to new challenges and crises.

We firmly oppose and strongly condemn any imposed plan that disregards the will of the Palestinian people. We believe that the future of Palestine and Gaza can only be secured within the framework of Palestinian interests and the right of all genuine Palestinians to determine their own destiny. In this regard, we call upon all freedom-loving nations, independent states, international organizations, and institutions, particularly the member parliaments of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, to support the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people **in both word and deed** against this new conspiracy.

The future of Palestine will not be determined by the United States or any other colonial power. The right to self-determination belongs solely to the Palestinian people. The only way to end the current crisis in West Asia is through a complete and lasting ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, the full withdrawal of the occupying Zionist forces from

Palestinian, Lebanese, and Syrian territories, the immediate and unimpeded delivery of sufficient humanitarian aid to all of Gaza, and the safe and unrestricted return of Palestinian refugees to their homes.

Madam President,

Esteemed Speakers of the Parliaments,

The world needs a new era of peace, security, and multilateralism. Asia must play its role in initiating this new phase of multilateral cooperation, and we must work together to achieve this important goal. We propose strengthening trade and economic cooperation among Asian countries, supported by their parliaments, with the aim of establishing mechanisms to facilitate trade among member states through preferential trade agreements, investment incentives, infrastructure development projects, and the reduction of trade barriers. We also advocate for diversifying trade routes and promoting economic synergy among member states to achieve inclusive growth and comprehensive development.

The Parliament of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as the initiator of the resolution on “Enhancing Cooperation Among Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly to Promote and Strengthen Multilateralism”, is prepared to take any necessary steps to strengthen sustainable multilateral cooperation in Asia and ensure that all Asian nations benefit from it.

Thank you for your attention.

Wa Ssalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuh.

19th February, 2025
Baku, Azerbaijan

ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

15TH PLENARY

Plenary Session Speech

Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani
Chairman
Senate of Pakistan



**RESEARCH
DIRECTORATE**
SENATE SECRETARIAT

- **Her Excellency Prof. Dr. Sahiba, Speaker of Milli Majlis and President of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly;**
- **Distinguished Speakers, Presiding Officers and delegates;**
- **Honourable Mohammad Reza Majidi, Secretary General of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly;**
- **Excellencies, Dignitaries, Dear Colleagues;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen!**

Asalam-o-Alaikum and a Very Good Afternoon/Good Evening!

It is a privilege to stand before this august assembly today. I extend my profound gratitude to our esteemed hosts for the exceptional hospitality and excellent arrangements in organizing this important gathering.

I also like to acknowledge and commend Azerbaijan for remarkable stewardship of APA during its Presidency. Madam President, your leadership par excellence, vision and proactive commitment has truly augmented APA's pivotal role in achieving our shared ideals of peace,

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democracy, human rights, and sustainable development. I am confident that the next President would continue to sustain the high momentum set by Azerbaijan towards transforming APA into a true ‘Institutional Voice of Asian Century’.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

As the global landscape continues to evolve, Asia remains at the center of geoeconomic transformation, security concerns, and geopolitical realignments. In this dynamic environment, parliamentary diplomacy serves as a bridge—one that connects diverse nations and political systems in pursuit of common interests. It enables us to address pressing regional issues and challenges, including economic integration, trade facilitation, climate change, terrorism and cybercrime.

Moreover, through enhanced cultural exchanges, educational collaborations, and interfaith dialogues, we

can strengthen understanding, solidarity and regional harmony.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

As a strategic link between South, Central, and West Asia, Pakistan is committed to fostering regional peace, economic connectivity, and sustainable development through active engagement at regional multilateral forums like the APA, SCO and ECO. We have proactively been pursuing smoother trade, transit agreements, and reduced barriers. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor remains central to strengthening regional infrastructure and economic integration.

Counterterrorism, intelligence-sharing, and regional peace initiatives are key priorities. Pakistan leads regional sustainability efforts through afforestation programs, disaster resilience strategies, and transnational energy projects. We believe that parliamentary cooperation is essential in addressing climate change, water security, and

clean energy transitions. As digital threats evolve, Pakistan advocates for robust cybersecurity frameworks to protect regional economies and societies.

My Dear Colleagues!

The APA provides us with an invaluable opportunity to establish legal frameworks, build consensus on regional policies, and undertake constructive dialogue that transcend political differences. However, as we move forward, some key areas require focused attention:

To maximize the impact of parliamentary engagement, we must develop structured mechanisms within APA that enhance legislative collaboration and policy alignment, bridge gaps and create consensus on pressing regional issues.

A stronger Asia requires inclusive governance. We must actively promote the participation of women and

young legislators in diplomatic forums, ensuring diverse perspectives in decision-making.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

I also take this opportunity to extend our complete support to the Sultanate of Oman's request for full membership in APA. Likewise, we endorse Belarus's request for observer status to foster inclusive parliamentary engagement.

With these words, I hope that this 15th APA Plenary meeting will help synthesize mutually-agreeable and acceptable solutions to all issues placed on its agenda.

Let us reaffirm our shared vision for a peaceful, prosperous, united and resilient Asia that thrives on mutual respect, inclusivity and progress.

Thank you!

Sultanate of Oman
Majles A'shura
Chairman Office
Muscat



سلطنة عُمان
مجلس الشورى
مكتب الرئيس
مسقط

كلمة

سعادة الشيخ/خالد بن هلال المعولي المحترم
رئيس مجلس الشورى

" في الجمعية البرلمانية الآسيوية الخامسة
عشرة في العاصمة الأذربيجانية - باكو "

" خلال الفترة ١٧ - ٢١ فبراير ٢٠٢٥م "



الحمد لله رب العالمين، والصلاة والسلام على
خاتم الأنبياء والمرسلين سيدنا محمد
وعلى آله وصحبه أجمعين

معالي البروفسورة الدكتوراة/ صاحبة
غافاروفا رئيسة الجمعية البرلمانية
الآسيوية ورئيسة الجمعية الوطنية
بجمهورية أذربيجان.

سعادة الدكتور/ علي رضا مجيدي
الأمين العام للجمعية البرلمانية الآسيوية.

أصحاب المعالي أصحاب السعادة/
الحضور الكريم،،

يسرني والوفد المرافق أن نعبر عن
شكرنا وامتناننا لحفاوة الاستقبال في
بلدكم الصديق وكرم الضيافة، ونود



أن نشيد بحسن التنظيم والإعداد لأعمال الجمعية البرلمانية الآسيوية التي تعقد جلساتها الخامسة عشرة في العاصمة الأذربيجانية (باكو)، استكمالاً للجهود المبذولة في الدورات السابقة، وتحقيقاً للأهداف المرجوة، واسهاماً في إنجاح أعمال هذا الاجتماع.

أصحاب المعالي والسعادة ... الحضور الكريم،، إن اختيار موضوع " دور الدبلوماسية البرلمانية في تعزيز التعاون المتعدد الأطراف في آسيا" لهو موضوع بالغ الأهمية في هذا الوقت من الزمان، حيث تتزايد في عالمنا المعاصر الكثير من التحديات والأزمات التي على ضوئها تتعدد القضايا وتتأزم الحوادث، وبما أن



الإنسان مَدَنِيٌّ بِطَبْعِهِ وَلَا يُمْكِنُهُ
 التَّعَايِشُ بِمُفْرَدِهِ عَنْ أَقْرَانِهِ، الْأَمْرُ الَّذِي
 بَاتَ يَدْعُو إِلَى التَّعَاوُنِ وَالتَّكَاتُفِ
 وَالتَّلَاحِمِ بَيْنَ الدُّوَلِ وَالمُنظَمَاتِ
 الإِقْلِيمِيَّةِ وَالدُّوَلِيَّةِ، حَيْثُ أَنَّ هَذَا
 التَّعَاوُنَ المُتَعَدِّدَ بَيْنَ العَدِيدِ مِنَ الأَطْرَافِ
 يُعَدُّ رَكِيزَةً أُسَاسِيَّةً مِنْ مُتَطَلِبَاتِ
 التَّفَاهُمِ وَالأَحْتِرَامِ المُتَبَادِلِ وَالتَّعَايِشِ
 السَّلْمِيِّ وَمَوَاكِبَةِ التَّطَوُّرِ وَالتَّقَدُّمِ الَّذِي
 يَشْهَدُهُ العَالَمُ أَجْمَعُ، وَبِالتَّالِي فَإنَّ العَمَلَ
 لِتَحْقِيقِ ذَلِكَ يَتَطَلَّبُ مِنْنا جَمِيعاً العَزْمَ
 وَالمُضِيءَ قَدَمًا لِتَحْقِيقِ التَّعَاوُنِ المُنشُودِ
 الَّذِي نَطْمَحُ إِلَيْهِ جَمِيعُنَا بَيْنَ مُخْتَلَفِ
 الدُّوَلِ، وَهُوَ الأَمْرُ الَّذِي نُوَكِّدُ عَلَيْهِ
 وَنَعْمَلُ عَلَى دَعْمِهِ؛ لِتَكُونَ أَسِيًّا بِكُلِّ
 دَوْلَا مَثَالًا يُحْتَدَى بِهِ فِي تَعزِيزِ التَّعَاوُنِ



الإقليمي وما يعود أثره نفعاً وفائدةً
على دولنا وشعوبها.

أصحاب المعالي والسعادة.. الحضور الكريم،،
إن سلطنة عُمان تؤمن بأن العمل
البرلماني هو مكملاً أساسياً للدبلوماسية
الرسمية، وليس بديلاً عنها، وإن
الدبلوماسية البرلمانية العمانية ليست
محصورةً في مفاهيم السياسة الخارجية
فقط، بل تتعدى ذلك الحيز لتكون
هوية سلطنة عُمان ونهجها الراسخ في
التعامل مع العالم، فقد كانت سلطنة
عُمان وما زالت على مر التاريخ حلقة
الوصل بين القارات والثقافات والأمم،
مما ساهم ذلك في تشكيل هويتها
الوطنية ونهجها القائم على الحوار
والانفتاح، ومن هذا المنطلق واستكمالاً



للجهود حول التعاون المتعدد الأطراف
وتعزيز التعاون الإقليمي والدولي
وتأكيداً لأهمية التعاون وتعزيز
العلاقات وتطويرها على كافة
الأصعدة مع مكونات النسيج الآسيوي،
لذا فإن سلطنة عُمان تقدمت بطلب
الحصول على العضوية الكاملة
بالجمعية البرلمانية الآسيوية، لإيمانها
بأهمية الاندماج في مختلف مكونات
النسيج الآسيوي، وما يمثله هذا المجتمع
من ثقل مشهود وهام على كافة
الأصعدة الدولية والإقليمية.

أصحاب المعالي والسعادة..

إن سلطنة عُمان تؤمن بأن العمل
البرلماني لا يكفي بوضع القوانين
والتشريعات فقط بل بإيجاد مساحات



للحوار والنقاش، حيث يمكن للأفكار المختلفة أن تتلاقى وتتقارب، فمن خلال الدبلوماسية البرلمانية يمكن أن نوحّد الجهود لمواجهة التحديات العالمية، وأن نكون صوتاً مشتركاً يدعو للسلام والتنمية والاستدامة، حيث أن جوهر الدبلوماسية البرلمانية قائم على مبدأ الانفتاح على الآخر، والاستعداد للإصغاء حتى في ظل وجود اختلافات عميقة في الرؤى والمواقف.

لذلك ندرك جميعنا بأن الدبلوماسية البرلمانية تعدّ أحد الركائز الأساسية في تعزيز الحوار وبناء الجسور بين الشعوب والدول بما يكفل تعزيزها وتطويرها. وفي هذا المقام نستذكر مثالا حيا للعيان على أهمية الحوار المفضي إلى



الأمن والاستقرار في المنطقة ألا وهو القضية الفلسطينية، ومطالب الشعب الفلسطيني بحقوقه المشروعة التي كفلها القانون الدولي والإعلان العالمي لحقوق الإنسان وقرارات مجلس الأمن والأعراف والمواثيق الدولية، وحقه في الأمن وتقرير المصير وإقامة دولته كاملة السيادة على أرضه، ونذكر جميعاً أن تهجير الفلسطينيين والاستيلاء على أراضيهم قسراً وإجباراً لم يكن ولن يكن يوماً خياراً للسلام وإنما تقويضاً وهدماً لجميع أشكال الأمن والاستقرار والسلام الدولي عليه ندعو من هذا المنبر أن يكون هنالك موقفاً حازماً وواضحاً من البرلمانات الآسيوية اتجاه حقوق الشعب



الفلسطيني الذي هو جزء لا يتجزأ عن
المكون الآسيوي الكبير.

وختاماً نتمنى لهذا الاجتماع
التوفيق والسداد، آمليين لجمهورية
أذربيجان الصديقة كل التقدم
والرخاء، ومؤكدين تعاون سلطنة
عمان مع الجميع لتحقيق التعاون
المتعدد الأطراف في آسيا.

والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته،،



TÜRKİYE BÜYÜK MİLLET MECLİSİ BAŞKANLIĞI
Dış İlişkiler ve Protokol Başkanlığı

SPEECH OF MR. ABDULKADİR EMİN ÖNEN
TO BE DELIVERED
DURING THE OPENING SESSION OF
THE 15TH APA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Honorable President of the Milli Mejlis of Azerbaijan,
Distinguished Representatives of APA Member Countries,
Mr. Secretary General,
Dear Participants,

I am very pleased to meet you in the heart of Eurasia, at the western tip of Asia, on the coast of the beautiful Caspian Sea, on the territory of Azerbaijan. Baku is a highly important center for Asia, for the Caucasus and the Caspian basin. We are very pleased to hold the 15th Plenary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of Asia in Baku, the city of success and development of the 21st century. I would like to convey to you the heartfelt greetings of the Turkish people and H.E. Mr. Numan KURTULMUŞ, Speaker of Grand National Assembly of Türkiye.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Milli Mejlis which is the heart of Azerbaijani people and its Speaker H.E. Mrs. Sahibe GAFAROVA for the extraordinary hospitality.

Azerbaijan is a quite significant center for regional stability. The liberation of Azerbaijani territories from nearly 30 years of unjust occupation and ensuring of Azerbaijan's territorial integrity is a very crucial step not only for Azerbaijan but also for the region. Reconstruction activities in the liberated territories of Azerbaijan have made great progress. Bringing the peace talks between Azerbaijan and Armenia to a fair and lasting conclusion will enhance stability and prosperity not only for two countries but also for the whole region. Türkiye has always stood by Azerbaijan and will continue to do so.

Asia is home to a rich cultural diversity from west to east and south to north. As the center and largest home of humanity, our continent is rapidly moving away from its potential due to regional development disparities and some humanitarian crises, and is not where it needs to be in the world. The joint action will be beneficial for transforming Asia's existing richness into prosperity. With cooperation and solidarity, it is possible to reach much higher levels of development more easily. In this framework, it is necessary to build multidimensional and advanced cooperation. Although forging good bilateral relations are



TÜRKİYE BÜYÜK MİLLET MECLİSİ BAŞKANLIĞI
Dış İlişkiler ve Protokol Başkanlığı

important, they are only sufficient up to a certain point. Multilateral relations are also extremely vital.

The development of multilateral relations will allow for the comprehensive development of economic networks in line with specific objectives. In many areas, such as investment, trade, transportation, etc., it is possible to overcome challenges through mutual efforts. Multilateral international cooperation can also make valuable contributions in numerous other areas. There is a great deal of work to be done in science, education and international conflict resolution.

As direct representatives of the peoples, parliaments can play a leading role in the development of multilateral cooperation. The improvement of relations between countries will gain momentum and rise on a more solid ground with the harmony and solidarity between parliaments. The choosing of the title The Role of Parliaments in Strengthening Multilateral Cooperation for our General Assembly is quite meaningful and accurate. As you may recall, last year, at our 14th General Assembly, also held in Baku, we discussed the very valuable topic of “sustainable development”. It is possible that multilateral international cooperation can be a lever in this field as well. Thus, the continuation of our work with complementary agendas is a fundamental contribution of the Azerbaijani presidency to our Assembly.

Distinguished Participants,

About 60% of the world's population lives in Asia, although Asia represents less than 40% of the world's economic output. Nevertheless, the heart of the world beats in Asia, both as a producer and a consumer. In various respects, Asia contains one-third of the global economic volume, which is quite low relative to the continent's population. However, in terms of natural resources, manpower and trade routes, Asia's weight in the global power equation is increasing. Despite the positive developments, Asia is also the scene of some instability and crises.

Syria has experienced a civil war that lasted more than a decade. During this period, the Syrian people have suffered immensely. Millions of Syrians were forced to flee their homeland. Turkey has always stood by the Syrian people. We have opened our doors to millions of Syrians fleeing the civil war and we continue to host them.

Finally, the oppressive regime in Syria has been removed. Today, it is of utmost importance to support the transition process in Syria and to give all kinds of support to the territorial integrity of Syria. Terrorist organizations such as PKK, YPG, PYD and DAESH cannot have place in Syria. Permanent stability cannot be built in a Syria where these terrorist organizations exist, nor can regional stability be achieved. We see Syria's reconstruction, prosperity and peace as an indispensable issue for our region. In this direction, APA countries provide all kinds of support. We invite all Asian countries to support the newly established government in Syria. I would like to remind that ending the sanctions against Syria is one of the most important steps in this context and sincerely thank all the countries that support peace and stability in Syria.



TÜRKİYE BÜYÜK MİLLET MECLİSİ BAŞKANLIĞI
Dış İlişkiler ve Protokol Başkanlığı

Dear Members of Parliament,

After 471 days of genocide in Gaza, a temporary ceasefire was reached on January 19 with our efforts. Despite Israel's foot-dragging, the prisoner swaps continue. We are pleased to observe that Hamas remains loyal to its promise. For 15 months, Gaza has been under a heavy blockade and although the aid is not at the desired level, it has started to reach Gaza. However, unfortunately, we see that the Israeli administration has more insidious and inhumane plans in mind instead of making the ceasefire permanent. The proposals put forward by the new American administration under the pressure of the Zionist lobby regarding Gaza are not worthy of consideration and discussion from our point of view. They are utter nonsense and a waste of time. No one has the power to remove Gazans from their eternal homeland of thousands of years. Palestine, with Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem, belongs to the Palestinians. Any plan to separate Gaza from Gazans is null and void.

The prerequisite for peace and stability in the region is the establishment of an independent and sovereign Palestinian state within the 1967 borders, with geographical integrity and with East Jerusalem as its capital. Türkiye, with its parliament, government and people, stands by the Palestinian people and has been working for a peaceful and just solution to this problem from the very beginning on every platform.

Madamme President,

Honorable Members of Parliament,

We welcome the steps taken to enhance the institutional capacity of the APA. In this context, we support the process of amending some articles of the APA Charter and Rules of Procedure in the meetings of the Standing Committee and the Working Group on Basic Documents, but consider it insufficient. We think that both the Charter and the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly would be more useful to be discussed as a whole in a working group meeting consisting of experts rather than politicians. Otherwise, we will make very little progress by changing one or two articles every year.

In conclusion, I would like to thank everyone who contributed to this meeting, especially our esteemed host Azerbaijan. Believing that the Asian Parliamentary Assembly will be the bedrock of multilateral cooperation across Asia in a new and stronger structure, I wish peace and tranquility to prevail in all parts of Asia and the world. I greet you with respect.

Asian Parliamentary Assembly



The 15th Plenary Session

Baku, Azerbaijan
19-20 February 2025



Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Election of the Bureau
3. Remarks by APA President, H.E. Speaker of Milli Majlis of Azerbaijan
4. Report of the Chairperson of the Executive Council
5. Report of the Secretary General on the work of the Organization
6. Adoption of the full membership of the Sultanate of Oman
7. Adoption of the Observer status of Republic of Belarus
8. General Debate: Statements by Head of Delegations on "*Role of Parliamentary Diplomacy in Strengthening Multilateral Cooperation in Asia*"
9. Meeting of the Standing Committees
10. Meeting of the Drafting Committee on Baku Declaration
11. Presentation and adoption of Reports of:
 - Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs
 - Standing Committee on Budget and Planning
 - Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development

- Standing Committee on Political Affairs

12. Approval of the APA Vice- Presidents for 2025

13. Nomination of APA President for 2026-7

14. Adoption of the amendments to the APA Charter and Rule of Procedure recommended by the Executive Council

15. Any other matter

Attachment IV



Asian Parliamentary Assembly

15th Plenary Session

Baku, Azerbaijan, 19-20 February 2025

Report of the Chairperson of the Executive Council to the Plenary

**Madam President,
Distinguished Delegates,
Dear Colleagues,**

*It is a great pleasure for me, as chairperson of the Executive Council and Representative of the APA President **H.E. Sahiba Gafarova**, the esteemed Speaker of the Milli Majlis of Azerbaijan, to welcome you all to the 15th Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly in Baku, the capital city of the Republic of Azerbaijan.*

It is also an honor for me to present to the 15th APA Plenary the Report of the Executive Council meeting of 18 February 2025 in Baku:

1. Following adoption of the agenda of the Executive Council, the meeting elected members of the Bureau by acclamation as follows:

- Chairman: Azerbaijan
- Vice Chair : Jordan
- Rapporteur : Bhutan

2. In my opening remarks as Chairperson of the Executive council I made the following points:

- *Azerbaijan views the Asian Parliamentary Assembly as a unique platform for promoting Asian solidarity and cooperation across various fields and supports strengthening its organizational capacities.*
- *We are concerned about the situation in the Middle East and therefore we support efforts to reduce tensions in region and find a political solution.*
- *For the first time since decades, de facto peace has been established between Armenia and Azerbaijan, stability has been achieved on the ground.*
- *Despite the various challenges, around 300,000 Azerbaijani refugees displaced from Armenia are still waiting to return to their ancestral homes.*
- *We will continue to support efforts to achieve a just, lasting, and peaceful resolution to all outstanding issues in the greater Asian region in accordance with the fundamental norms and principles of international law.*

3. The APA Secretary General, Dr. Majidi also presented his Report on the APA activities during the 2024/2025. Secretary General in his Report outlined the work of the four Standing Committees and other major events of the APA.

4. I am delighted to report to you that at yesterday's meeting, the Executive Council unanimously approved the application of the Sultanate of Oman for the full membership and the application of the Republic of Belarus for the APA observer status and sought the Plenary endorsement.

5. It is also my honor to report that the Executive Council, noting that the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Kingdom of Bahrain

had generously offered their candidacy for APA Presidency of 2026-2027, approved the following arrangements which have been agreed among them through good offices of APA Secretary General and under the chairmanship of the representative of the APA President:

1. Kingdom of Bahrain will hold the position of APA Presidency for 2026.
2. Islamic Republic of Iran will hold the position of APA Presidency for 2027-2028.
3. Iran as the APA vice-president will host the Standing Committee on Political Affairs in 2025.
4. Iran as the APA vice-president will host the Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development in 2026.
6. The Executive Council at yesterday's meeting, also reconfirmed the nomination of the Kingdom of Bahrain, the State of Qatar and Russia Federation for the three post of APA Vice – Presidency and hosting of the Standing Committees for the 2025 and recommended them to the Plenary for endorsement.

Disguised Delegates,

Dear Colleagues,

7. As its main task, the Executive Council considered the draft resolutions adopted by Standing Committees on Social and Cultural Affairs, Budget, and Planning, Economic and Sustainable Development and Political Affairs. After debating several minor changes, all draft resolutions were approved by the Executive Council and recommended to the Plenary for the final approval.
8. The Executive Council considered the report on Working Group on Statutory Documents in Bahrain and Iraq. At these two meetings

Article 5 and 8 of the APA Charter and Rules 15 and 34.1 of the APA Rules of Procedure were reviewed. The text of the reviewed Articles of the APA Charter and Rules of the APA Rules of Procedure were presented by the APA Secretariat to the meeting. The Executive Council considered and approved the proposed amendments and recommended it to the 15th Plenary for the final approval.

8a. The Executive Council welcomed the crucial decision regarding equal payment and equal voting rights, recognize that the APA budget is essential for its effective functioning, and called on all Member States to take the necessary measures to allocate the required funds.

8b. The Executive Council endorsed the Recommendation of the Standing Committee that the Committee on Palestine continue its work as a subcommittee of the Political Standing Committee.

9. The report on the two meetings of the Committee on Palestine in Tehran and Baghdad were presented to the meeting.

10. APA Secretariat also reported on the four sessions of the APA Bureau on the sidelines of the Standing Committee meetings in Moscow, Doha, Manama, and Baghdad.

11. The Executive Council considered and adopt the draft Agenda of the 15th APA Plenary.

Thank you very much for your kind attention

Attachment V



Asian Parliamentary Assembly

15th Plenary Session

Baku, Azerbaijan

19-20 February 2025

Report by the Secretary General on the work of the Organization

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

It is with great pleasure and profound honor that I, as Secretary-General, extend my warmest welcome to all esteemed attendees of the 15th Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) here in Baku, the magnificent capital of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

I am delighted that this landmark session is being convened under the esteemed leadership of **H.E. Sahiba Gafarova**, the highly respected Speaker of the **Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan**.

Under Azerbaijan's guidance, and with the dedicated efforts of the four APA Vice-Presidents Bahrain, Iraq, Qatar, and Russia, we have successfully conducted our Standing Committee meetings, fulfilling the objectives outlined in the 14th APA Plenary Session.

Throughout 2024, the APA has remained steadfast in addressing key regional and global issues. Our first gathering of the year took place in Moscow in September, under the framework of the **Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs**. This meeting facilitated in-depth discussions on a range of vital topics, including cultural diversity, heritage preservation, health equity, anti-corruption measures, the fight against the smuggling of cultural artifacts, drug trafficking, youth and human development, tourism, and interfaith dialogue. A significant contribution from the Russian Federation introduced a timely draft resolution on the pursuit of a "More Just Multipolar World Order Reflecting Cultural and Civilizational Diversity." In light of the increasing impact of social media and artificial intelligence, (AI) I firmly believe we must adopt a proactive approach to addressing these emerging social and cultural challenges.

In addition to our work on social and cultural affairs, 2024 marked significant progress in APA's financial planning. **The Standing Committee on Budget and Planning**, convened in November in Qatar, achieved a major milestone by unanimously adopting the principle of equal assessed contributions, setting the amount at \$22,000 USD. This draft resolution underscores the importance of equitable financial participation by all Member Parliaments, ensuring the sustainable operation of the APA and its Secretariat. I am confident that with the endorsement of this model by the 15th Plenary Session, the APA will take a substantial step toward achieving its noble goals with renewed confidence and shared commitment. On this occasion, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Islamic Parliament of Iran for its continued financial and logistical support to the APA Secretariat since 2007.

In the area of **economic and sustainable development**, the APA remained deeply engaged throughout 2024. Our December meeting in Manama, Bahrain, provided a platform for rich discussions on energy markets, environmental policies, economic growth, poverty eradication, sustainable development goals (SDGs), and water and sanitation issues. Given the significance of these topics, I strongly encourage Member Parliaments to actively contribute proposals in the

form of draft resolutions for consideration at the next Standing Committee meeting.

On the **political front**, while the APA has consistently emphasized critical issues such as good governance, the rule of law, regional cooperation, and multilateralism, the dominant focus of 2024 has been the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. In response to the catastrophic conditions faced by the Palestinian people, the APA established the "**Committee on Palestine**," which convened twice: first in January 2024 in Tehran, Iran, and then in January 2025 in Baghdad, Iraq, alongside the APA Standing Committee on Political Affairs. During these sessions, the Committee reaffirmed the APA's unwavering support for the Palestinian cause and strongly condemned the massacre of civilians and acts of ethnic cleansing in Gaza perpetrated by the Zionist regime.

Between the 14th and 15th Plenary Sessions, we also made significant progress in reviewing and updating the APA's statutory documents. The APA **Working Group on Statutory Documents** convened in Manama, Bahrain, in December 2024, and in Baghdad, Iraq, in January 2025, where it conducted a comprehensive review of Article 5 and Article 8 of the APA Charter, as well as Rule 15 of the APA Rules of Procedure. The Executive Council has since approved these amendments and recommended them for formal endorsement by the Plenary. With their adoption, the mandate of the Working Group on Statutory Documents will have been successfully fulfilled.

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

As I conclude my report, I am pleased to announce that the Executive Council has approved **the Sultanate of Oman's** application for full APA membership and **the Republic of Belarus'** application for Observer Status. The unanimous support for these applications in the Plenary will further reinforce APA's role as a growing platform for parliamentary diplomacy and regional cooperation.

Furthermore, I would like to extend my deep appreciation to the Milli Majlis of Azerbaijan for selecting **the theme** "*The Role of Parliamentary Diplomacy in Strengthening Multilateral Cooperation in Asia*" for this 15th APA Plenary Session. This theme reflects our collective commitment to harnessing parliamentary diplomacy as an instrument for fostering multilateral cooperation and addressing common regional and global challenges.

Another significant agenda item at this Plenary Session is the nomination of the **APA President for 2026–2028**. I am pleased to report that at yesterday's Executive Council meeting, the Council reached a consensus on the nomination of Kingdom of Bahrain for the APA Presidency for 2026 and Islamic Republic of Iran for 2027-2028. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Bahrain and Iran and I am confident that the two parliaments will receive the full support of the Plenary for this prestigious leadership role.

Moreover, I am delighted that the Executive Council has confirmed the candidacies of Bahrain, Qatar, Iran, and Russia as the **four Vice-Presidents**, along with their commitment to hosting the Standing Committee meetings. I congratulate them on their dedication and commend their leadership and professionalism in successfully organizing these critical meetings over the years. Looking ahead to 2025, I am confident that the **Bureau of the Assembly**, with its distinguished composition, will make crucial decisions to further advance the implementation of the APA's annual program of work.

They can be assured of the full support of all APA members and the Secretariat as they carry out their significant responsibilities.

Thank you very much for your kind attention

Attachment VI

015TH PLENARY SESSION OF THE ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY, 17 - 21 February 2025 Baku, Azerbaijan

INTERVENTION BY THE HEAD OF THE CYPRUS DELEGATION, Mr. NICOS TORNARITIS, MP

“ROLE OF PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY IN STRENGTHENING MULTILATERAL COOPERATION IN ASIA”

Your Excellencies,
Esteemed Colleagues,
Dear Friends,

First of all allow me to extend a heartfelt thank you to our hosts the Parliament of Azerbaijan for their warm hospitality and for organizing an excellent Plenary Session.

It is a sad reality that in recent years the world appears to be in turmoil. As we witness on a daily basis conflict, destruction and the rise of multiple threats to the wellbeing of our peoples, we must pledge to work together so that peace and security prevail. In dealing with all these challenges, the role and importance of multilateralism, dialogue and the peaceful resolution of disputes are being called into question. In this challenging scape, meetings such as the one we are all attending here in Baku, serve to remind us of the fundamental importance and crucial role of parliamentary diplomacy in today's turbulent world where global challenges and geopolitical tensions demand collaborative and multilateral responses.

Parliamentary diplomacy serves as a platform for open dialogue, fostering mutual understanding and promoting peaceful resolutions to conflicts. This is especially important in a time when traditional diplomacy may be sidelined by unilateral actions or when formal channels are at risk of breakdown. Especially in these times of increasing isolationism, parliamentary diplomacy helps to build bridges between countries. As parliamentarians, we possess a unique advantage to connect our nations

and peoples through common ground, that transcends government-to-government tensions and acts as a beacon of goodwill and reconciliation.

Cyprus' role as both an EU member state and a country in Western Asia places it in a unique position to facilitate multilateral diplomacy in Asia. Through its active participation in regional and international parliamentary platforms, Cyprus has been able to act as a bridge between Europe and Asia, contributing to regional stability, energy cooperation, and peacebuilding efforts. Special focus, has been placed on our ability to respond promptly to regional or other crises, through our organizational framework, which in the past two years alone has been used for evacuations of civilians from conflict zones in the area to the delivering of humanitarian assistance to Gaza through the "Amalthia" corridor project. All these efforts contribute to upgrading further the role of Cyprus in the Eastern Mediterranean.

As Asia continues to grow in geopolitical and economic importance, Cyprus' role in fostering parliamentary diplomacy will be critical in ensuring that multilateral cooperation across regions is strengthened. By maintaining its strategic position as a diplomatic bridge, Cyprus has the potential to play an even more influential role in shaping the future of Asia and the broader international community.

In conclusion, parliamentary diplomacy holds significant potential in strengthening multilateral cooperation in Asia. By fostering dialogue, promoting accountability, and empowering national legislatures, parliamentary diplomacy ensures that Asia's diverse nations can work together to address common challenges and build a more stable and prosperous future.

Thank you for your attention.

/LM/

Attachment VII

Asian Parliamentary Assembly, 15th Plenary Session BAKU DECLARATION, 20 February 2025.

We, Members of Parliaments of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) who attended the 15th Plenary Session of APA in Baku from 17 February to 21 February 2025, upon the invitation of H.E. Sahiba GAFAROVA, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Azerbaijan and President of APA:

Representing the Asian nations, which are bound by deeply-rooted ties of history, geography, culture, economy, politics and civilization;

Commending the amity and the friendly relations among the Asian Nations, while recognizing the need to reinforce all kind of international cooperation that is indispensable for realizing the objectives of the APA, i.e., the promotion of freedom, justice, strengthening progress and prosperity of its members and making better use of the region's vast human and natural resources in the interests of the member countries;

Recalling the principles of the Charter of the United Nations in their entirety and interconnection with each other, including those of sovereign equality, political independence and territorial integrity of all States, refraining from use of force or the threat of use of force in international relations and non-interference in the internal affairs of States;

Underlining the absolute value of multilateralism in fostering a more prosperous, peaceful and sustainable world and expressing their determination to promote multilateral cooperation;

Emphasizing the importance of parliamentary diplomacy in maintaining peace, security and stability in the world and in enhancing trust, cooperation and solidarity among nations;

Concerned over the ongoing conflicts, security challenges and the threats of terrorism in parts of Asia and the suffering of people affected by these conflicts, especially displaced people;

Welcoming the announcement of a deal to secure a ceasefire and the release of prisoners and hostages in Gaza and **stressing** the importance of full implementation of the deal, firstly, to ease sufferings caused by the conflict and expand the delivery of sustained humanitarian relief;

Stressing the centrality of promoting the rule of law, justice and good governance for realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms and **underscoring** in this regard the legislative authority of Parliaments;

Promoting tolerance, mutual understanding and respect for core human values by rejecting any form of discrimination, racism, xenophobia or Islamophobia;

Encouraging the importance of the effective inclusion of women and youth in social, cultural, economic and political affairs and decision-making in Asia as appropriate;

Expressing our will to boost regional cooperation in political, economic, commercial, social, environmental, healthcare, cultural and educational fields, including by strengthening inter-parliamentary dialogue in Asia;

Reiterating the significance of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly in the areas of health, education, housing, food security, nutrition, poverty eradication and environmental sustainability;

Noting that a healthy environment is a prerequisite and key enabler for sustainable development and social welfare, and that the adverse impacts of climate change affect vulnerable countries the most, **highlighting** the need for enhancing the individual and collective capacity of Asian countries to address climate risks;

Noting the successful outcomes of the 29th session of the Conference of Parties (COP29) to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Baku, Azerbaijan on 11-22 November 2024 that will contribute significantly to addressing environmental and climate related global challenges;

Commending role of parliamentary diplomacy in strengthening multilateral cooperation in Asia and underscoring commitment of the APA Member States to address all aspects of the critical issue of multilateral cooperation.

Acknowledging that effective parliamentary cooperation is essential for providing legislative support to enhance economic collaboration and interconnectivity in Asia;

Hereby:

Reaffirm our commitment to the Charter of the United Nations, the universally recognized norms and principles of international law and to the Charter of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly;

Support the strengthening of multilateralism and **advocate** for more efficient, inclusive and transparent global governance and an order based on international law;

Reject any unlawful political and economic pressure against any Member State, particularly those, whose nations are suffering from the negative consequences of unilateral coercive measures at political, economic and social levels;

Mobilize all efforts to promote peace in Asia through the peaceful resolution of disputes, by providing assistance to conflict affected populations and by encouraging the safe and dignified return of displaced persons;

Recognize the repeated appeals by the Western Azerbaijani Community to engage in dialogue for the return to their ancestral homes in Armenia, as enshrined in various international human rights instruments, and mobilize all efforts to ensure the safe and dignified return of these displaced Azerbaijanis.

Urge all parties to fully comply with international law, including international humanitarian law, and call for withdrawal of Israeli forces from the occupied Palestinian territory;

Request the UN and the international community to substantially scale up the delivery of humanitarian relief to Gaza, to rebuild infrastructure and to rehabilitate the people of Gaza;

Reject categorically any foreign plans/initiatives regarding the future of Palestine and post-war Gaza, which are the absolute rights of the Palestinian people.

Reiterate strong support for the establishment of an independent and sovereign State of Palestine with its capital Al Quds and the right to return as mentioned in the UN General Assembly Resolution 194.

Unite efforts and **enhance** cooperation in a collective fight against terrorism, extremism, separatism, xenophobia, islamophobia, racism, crime in the sphere of ICT, transnational organised crime, trafficking in human being and illicit drug trafficking illicit trafficking in weapons, cultural property and other goods, illegal exploitation and trafficking of natural resources and money-laundering;

Exhort APA Member Parliaments to collaborate and take necessary measures to promote the development of ICT infrastructure through enabling policies, capacity building and building confidence and security in the use of ICTs;

Call upon APA Member Parliaments to promote strong inter-parliamentary cooperation and meaningful engagement of women and youth in their working;

Encourage targeted activities to foster intercultural and interfaith dialogue and exchange in Asia, including through active engagement in Baku Process and Peace4culture Global Campaign;

Encourage enhanced dialogue and cooperation in the areas of culture, sport and tourism among the APA Member Countries;

Underline the importance of fostering economic relations and trade channels to strengthen regional interconnectivity and support regional transport and digital connectivity projects;

Urge Asian governments to improve the implementation of SDG's and to adopt policy approaches to develop a comprehensive and innovative growth strategies needed to sustain a resilient, balanced, sustainable and inclusive economic growth;

Further urge APA Member Parliaments to redouble efforts in supporting activities to eradicate poverty, reduce inequality, ensure food security, access to healthcare and education, including by developing and implementing effective policies;

Invite APA member Parliaments to develop cross-sectoral collaboration for the advancement of health equity in Asia and adopt policies and measures to improve health care services and social protection systems;

Call for improving alternative energy resources, emphasizing the importance of renewable and low-emission energy and energy efficiency in achieving sustainable development and protecting the environment, including through involving investments in infrastructure and the use of environment-friendly, innovative technology;

Invite APA Member Parliaments to proceed with legislation and other legal actions deemed relevant for integrating climate policies into broader development policies and urge their respective governments to implement projects in line with the measures outlined their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and the Paris Agreement as appropriate;

Note the adoption of the Baku Climate Unity Pact at the 29th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC in November 2024 and **commend** the COP29 Presidency's global initiatives aimed at enabling impactful climate action;

Acclaim with great satisfaction the expansion of the ranks of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly and welcome the full membership of the Sultanate of Oman, as well as the granting of Observer status to the Republic of Belarus.

Support the crucial decision by the Plenary of the APA regarding equal payment and equal voting rights, recognize that the APA budget is essential for its effective functioning and a critical concern for all Member States, and call on all Member States to take the necessary measures to allocate the required funds.

Welcome the unanimous endorsement of the Kingdom of Bahrain for the 2026 term and the Islamic Republic of Iran for the 2027-2028 term as the APA President, and **emphasize** the significance of this momentous occasion in the historic city of Baku, reflecting confidence in their ability to advance the noble objectives of the APA through effective parliamentary diplomacy.

Express gratitude to Azerbaijan for its warm, gracious and efficient hospitality in hosting the Fifteenth Plenary session of the APA in Baku.

Attachment VIII

20 February 2025

Dear Secretary General, Dr. Majidi,

Russian Delegation to the Asian Parliamentary Assembly 15th Plenary Session in Azerbaijan would like to draw your attention and the attention of all the APA Member Parliaments to the Russian position on the adoption of the Baku Declaration.

Drafting of the APA Baku Declaration on 20 February 2025 resulted in violations of the principles stipulated in the APA Statutory Documents.

In accordance with the APA Rules of Procedure (Rule 21), the Plenary shall promote friendly and constructive dialogue. To this end, bilateral contentious issues shall be excluded. However, an issue of bilateral contentious nature was included into the Baku Declaration by the Drafting Committee despite the concerns and point of order raised by Russian delegation. Our comments concerning the issue of displaced persons voiced before acclamation were completely disregarded by the host country. Therefore, Russian delegation would like to officially inform the APA Secretariat about the formal letter sent to the Head of Azerbaijani Delegation as the APA Chair, which reads:

“Russian Parliamentary delegation to the 15th Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly adheres to the position that in accordance with the APA existing practices, the Plenary Session Declaration is a document to be endorsed by consensus. Therefore, we call upon the Republic of Azerbaijan, as the APA Chair, to give due consideration to the positions expressed by national delegations and avoid including into Plenary Session Declaration any paragraphs that were not approved by all the APA Member Parliaments.

Any other text may be issued by the Chair as a separate Chair Statement, not requiring consensus of all the APA Member Parliaments present at the session.”

However, the Russian position was not reflected in the Final Draft of the Baku Declaration that we received from the host country. Thus, the following wording was proposed by the Russian delegation in order to reach consensus:

Recognize the necessity to address the outstanding humanitarian issues within the framework of the reconciliation process between Azerbaijan and Armenia, including return of refugees and preservation of cultural and religious heritage. [~~the repeated appeals by the Western Azerbaijani Community to engage in dialogue for the return to their ancestral homes in Armenia, as enshrined in various international human rights instruments, and mobilize all efforts to ensure the safe and dignified return of these displaced Azerbaijanis.~~]

Regrettably, Russian delegation's proposals were not included into the text. With that in mind, to maintain the APA high status and image we kindly ask the Secretariat to draw the APA Member Parliaments' attention to the incident and distribute the information about the situation among them.

On top of that, we request the Secretariat to approach Azerbaijani Parliament with a view to amend or delete the afore-mentioned paragraph.

We would also like to reserve the right of Russian delegation to get back to this issue so that our position is duly reflected in the final documents.

We expect the APA Member Parliaments and the Secretariat to take all the necessary measures to avoid such unacceptable situations in future.

Kind regards,

Parliamentary Delegation of the Russian Federation

Attachment IX



Asian
Parliamentary
Assembly

SC- Social and Cultural Affairs/Rep/2025/3
20 February 2025
Azerbaijan

Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs

Baku, Azerbaijan
19-20 February 2025

Final Report

The Meeting of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs was held on February 19, 2024, and chaired by H.E. **Gennady Ordenov**, Head of the delegation of Russian Federation.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

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

2. Opening Remarks by the Chairperson

H.E. **Gennady Ordenov** the Chairperson of the meeting, welcomed the participants and expressed hope that this meeting would constructively address the important topics under its consideration. He stated that the meeting of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs, was held on September 2024 in Moscow. During the course of two sessions, 13 draft resolutions were updated and adopted by consensus. A new draft resolution on support of a more just multipolar world order was introduced as new draft resolution by the Russia and adopted by consensus. The draft resolution on the “Commission on Women” was thoroughly debated at this session of the Committee and deferred to the next meeting for further debate. All 13 Draft resolutions was approved by the EC and recommended to the Plenary. He also indicated that the next meeting of the Standing Committee will be held in July 2025 in Moscow. ([Attachment II](#))

3. Report of the Secretariat:

The Representative of the Secretariat referred to the general perspective pertaining to the context of the draft resolutions under consideration by this committee.

4. Consideration of Draft Resolutions recommended by the Executive Council

The Representative of the Secretariat indicated that during the Executive Council of yesterday all minor, editorial comments of participants have been taken note of thus there is no need to reintroduce them again. The committee adopted draft resolutions one by one. All 13 draft resolutions recommended by EC, were considered, and approved by the Committee.

5. Any other matters.

No issue was raised.

Attachment I

Asian Parliamentary Assembly

Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs



Baku, Azerbaijan
19-20 February 2025

Agenda

- 1- Adoption of the Agenda
- 2- Opening Remarks by Chairperson
- 3- Report of the Secretariat
- 4- Consideration of the situation of Women Parliamentarians in Asia
- 5- Consideration of Draft Resolutions recommended by the Executive Council
- 6- Any other matters.



Standing Committee on Budget & Planning

Baku, Azerbaijan
19-20 February 2025

Final Report

The Meeting of the Standing Committee on Budget and Planning was held on 19 February 2025, and chaired by H.E. Mr. Ahmad bin Hitmi AL-Hitmi in the capacity of APA Vice-President.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

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

2. Opening Remarks by the Chairperson:

The chairperson stated that the meeting of the Standing Committee on Budget and Planning was held on November 2024 in Doha, Qatar. At this meeting the draft resolution on Budget & Planning was debated with all proposed amendments and adopted by consensus. Considering that the Secretariat had estimated a budget of one million USD and the fact that there are 44 APA member, the meeting finally agreed on an equal amount of 22,000 USD as annual contribution. It was emphasized that the sum of 22,000 USD is a fair amount with no pressure on any member country, and voluntary contributions by certain wealthier members can also be taken into consideration. We should soon open a bank account which will facilitate the financial affairs Of the Secretariat. We should consider a formula to penalize those who refrain or postponed the payment of their assessed contributions.

3. Report of the Secretariat:

The Representative of Secretariat expressed hope that member parliaments start paying their assessed contributions once the Plenary adopt this only draft resolution of the Committee.

4. Consideration of the Draft Resolution recommended by the Executive Council:

Several member parliaments expressed their full support for the agreed amount of assessed contribution of 22000 and emphasized on the urgency of addressing this issue.

5. Any other matters:

No issue was raised.

Attachment I

Asian Parliamentary Assembly



Standing Committee on Budget & Planning

Baku, Azerbaijan
19-20 February 2025



Agenda

- 1- Adoption of the Agenda
- 2- Opening Remarks by Chairperson
- 3- Report of the Secretariat
- 4- Consideration of Draft Resolution recommended by Executive Council
- 5- Any other matters.

Attachment XI



Asian
Parliamentary
Assembly

SC- Economic & Sustainable Development /Rep/2025/5
20 February 2025
Azerbaijan

Standing Committee on Economic & Sustainable Development

Baku, Azerbaijan
19-20 February 2025

Final Report

The Meeting of the Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development was held on February 20, 2025 and chaired by the Head of delegation of the Council of Representatives of the Kingdom of Bahrain H.E. Mr. Ahmed Alsalloom.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The participants adopted the Agenda. ([Attachment I](#))

2. Opening Remarks by the Chairperson:

H.E Mr. Ahmed Alsalloom, welcomed participants and stated that all 7 draft resolutions under consideration were extensively debated in Manama and reviewed during Executive Council in Baku , therefore we are well positioned to request Plenary for their adoption.

3. Report of the Secretariat:

The Representative of Secretariat based on what was mentioned by the chairman propose that draft resolutions be considered and adopted one by one. Participants welcomed the proposal.

4. Consideration of the Draft Resolution recommended by the Executive Council:

Under this agenda item 7 draft resolutions were considered. The participants presented few minor editorials/corrections which were incorporated into relevant draft resolutions and adopted.

5. Any other matters:

No issue was raised

Attachment I

Asian Parliamentary Assembly



Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development

Baku, Azerbaijan
19-20 February 2025



Agenda

- 1- Adoption of the Agenda
- 2- Opening Remarks by Chairperson
- 3- Report of the Secretariat
- 4- Consideration of Draft Resolutions recommended by the Executive Council
- 5- Any other matters.

Attachment XII



Asian
Parliamentary
Assembly

SC- Political Affairs /Rep/2025/6
20 February 2025
Azerbaijan

Standing Committee on Political Affairs

Baku, Azerbaijan
19-20 February 2025

Final Report

The Meeting of the Standing Committee on Political Affairs was held on February 20, 2024, and chaired by H.E. Mr. Jabbar Frayyeh Abbas Al Kinani, MP of the Council of Representatives of Iraq.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

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

2. Opening Remarks by the Chairperson:

H.E. Mr. Al Kinani stated that the Standing Committee on Political Affairs was held on 11-12 January 2025 in Baghdad, Republic of Iraq. The Standing Committee adopted all 8 *draft resolutions* and presented them to the EC. In the sidelines of the Standing Committee the second session of the Committee on Palestine took place and all participating delegations expressing their full support for and solidarity with the Palestinian people.

3. Report of the Secretariat:

The representative of APA Secretariat presented the 8 draft resolutions one by one and requested their adoption.

4. Consideration of the Draft Resolution recommended by the Executive Council:

The Standing Committee considered 8 draft resolutions recommended by the Executive Council and adopted them with minor corrections.

Russian delegation on draft resolution “Asian Parliament’s unwavering support for Palestinian People”, expressed a Special Opinion as attached. ([Attachment II](#))

5. Any other matters:

No issue was raised.

Attachment I

Asian Parliamentary Assembly



Standing Committee on Political Affairs Baku, Azerbaijan

19-20 February 2025



Agenda

- 1- Adoption of the Agenda
- 2- Opening Remarks by Chairperson
- 3- Report of the Secretariat
- 4- Consideration of Draft Resolution recommended by Executive Council
- 5- Any other matters.

Attachment II

Separate Opinion of the Russian Delegation on the APA Draft Resolution on Asian Parliaments' Unwavering Support for the Palestinian People

(Baghdad, January 11-12, 2025)

The Russian delegation to the Asian Parliamentary Assembly wishes to express its respect for the delegations of all member countries of the Assembly and would like to voice the following regarding the Draft Resolution on Asian Parliaments' Unwavering Support for the Palestinian People.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of those who have lost their lives as a result of armed confrontations and empathies with all those who have suffered. We hope that humanitarian situation in the crisis zone will recover. Any violence against civilians is unacceptable, including strikes against civilian infrastructure, medical facilities, and places where the elderly, women, and children gather.

Russia's position on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and the pathways towards establishing lasting peace in the region is well-known and consistent. It is essential, above all, to achieve an immediate and comprehensive ceasefire, as well as a humanitarian truce to provide assistance to all those in need. We endorse the core mandate of UNRWA as a unique agency for aiding Palestinians. We acknowledge the importance of de-escalating hostilities and renouncing violence.

We advocate for the full resumption of the political and diplomatic process aimed at achieving a long-term and fair settlement to the inveterate Middle Eastern conflict following internationally recognized legal principles, including, in particular, the UN Security Council resolutions. The ultimate outcome of this process should be the establishment of an independent Palestinian state within the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital, coexisting in peace and security with Israel. It is the only approach that will help achieve a sustainable solution and break the vicious circle of bloodshed.

We welcome the UN General Assembly Resolution on the admission of Palestine as a full member to the United Nations adopted in May 2024 by the overwhelming majority.

Hence, the Russian delegation, while generally supporting the spirit of the APA Draft

Resolution on Asian Parliaments' Unwavering Support for the Palestinian People, deems it necessary to use the terminology and wordings enshrined in the resolutions of the UN Security Council and General Assembly that correspond to the high level of activity of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly.

We are convinced of the need to further enhance inter-parliamentary cooperation at the Asian Parliamentary Assembly to put an end to the suffering of the people of Gaza and to promote the use of peaceful political and diplomatic means that lead toward a comprehensive resolution of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and, more broadly, the Middle Eastern conflict, whose escalation has brought destabilization to the entire region.

Attachment XIII

Decision

The 15th APA Plenary on 20 February 2025 endorsed the outcome of the consultation of the Executive Council on the future APA Presidency.

Noting that the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Kingdom of Bahrain had generously offered their candidacy for APA Presidency of 2026-2027.

The Assembly, in accordance with the agreement reached under the chairmanship of the representative of the APA president, decides to adopt the following arrangements as agreed:

1. Kingdom of Bahrain will hold the position of APA Presidency for 2026.
2. Islamic Republic of Iran will hold the position of APA Presidency for 2027-2028.
3. Iran as the APA vice-president will host the Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development in 2026.

Attachment XIV

Asian Parliamentary Assembly



The 15th Plenary Session

Baku, Azerbaijan
17-21 February 2025



Amendments to the APA Charter

Article 8: Number of Votes

In the Plenary, each member parliament shall have one vote and has two delegates plus additional delegates determined as follows:

- Countries with population between 1 million up to 50 million will have two additional delegates,
- Countries with population between 50 and 200 million will have three additional delegates,
- Countries with population between 200 and 500 million will have four additional delegates, and
- Countries with population over 500 million will have five additional delegates,

Article 5: Basic Organs and Structures:

A: Basic APA Organs:

The APA shall be composed of the Plenary, the Executive Council, the Bureau of Assembly, the Standing Committees and the Secretariat.

Activities of the APA Organs and establishment of subsidiary bodies shall be regulated by the APA Rules of Procedure.

B: Organizational Structure of the APA:

The organization of the hierarchy structure shall be arranged in a democratic manner indicating clearly the specific composition, function, powers and Rules of Procedure to reach balance, harmony and effectiveness of the APA work, as an institution, all, shall be subject to the approval of the Plenary.

Asian Parliamentary Assembly



The 15th Plenary Session

Baku, Azerbaijan
17-21 February 2025



Amendments to the APA Rules of Procedure

IV: Standing Committees and Sub-Committees:

Rule 15:

1. The Plenary may set up Standing Committees and Sub-Committees as it deems necessary to deal with any subject of interest and to examine the issues on its agenda. These bodies shall submit as appropriate their draft resolutions, reports and recommendations to the Plenary for its consideration and decision.
2. The APA shall have four Standing Committees on: Political Affairs, Economic and Sustainable Development, Social and Cultural Affairs, Budget and Planning. Decisions of the Standing Committees shall be taken by consensus. Any other issues of interest are to be considered within the scope of sub-committees under direct supervision of the relevant Standing Committee
3. Upon suggestion of the Bureau or at least ten Member Parliaments, establishment of Sub-Committees, shall be put on the agenda of the Executive Council for its approval. The recommendation of the Executive Council on this issue shall be approved by the majority votes of the delegates present and voting in the Plenary.

Rule 34:

Each member parliament shall have one vote.

Attachment XV



**L.V. RAMANA
DIRECTOR
LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
PARLIAMENT OF INDIA**

Telegrams : LOKSABHA, NEW DELHI
FAX : 23010756

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
PARLIAMENT HOUSE ANNEXE
NEW DELHI - 110001

LSS No. No. 11/1/2025/IPU

Excellency,

Greetings from Parliament of India,

Excellency, please refer to the 15th Plenary Session of Asian Parliamentary Assembly held in Baku, Azerbaijan from 18 to 20 February 2025.

2. In this regard, the Indian Delegation to the 15th Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly in Baku, Azerbaijan wishes to express its concern regarding a paragraph (OP-5) included in the Final Draft of Baku Declaration.

3. According to our understanding, the paragraph (OP-5) pertains to a bilateral matter and falls outside the scope, mandate and objectives of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly. Further, the content of the paragraph has not been adopted by consensus, which is the basic guiding principle of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly.

4. In this regard, the Indian Delegation formally registers its objection to the retention of this paragraph (OP-5). The Indian Delegation proposes deletion of the aforementioned paragraph and respectfully requests that our position be duly noted and communicated to the Members of the 15th Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

DIRECTOR

**H.E. MOHAMMAD REZA MAJIDI
SECRETARY-GENERAL
ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY**