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## **Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development**

**14-16 September 2025**  
Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain

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### **Final Report**

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The meeting of Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development was held on 14-16 September 2025 in Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain.

The meeting hosted by Council of Representatives of the Kingdom of Bahrain and parliamentary delegations from following member countries participated:

Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, India, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Pakistan, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye and UAE.

[\(Attachment I\)](#)

#### **Opening Session:**

The following dignitaries presented their statements at the opening Session:

- H.E. Mr. Ahmed Bin Salman Al-Musallam, Speaker of the Bahrain Council of Representatives
- H.E. Dr. M.R. MAJIDI APA Secretary General
- H.E. Mr. Ahmad Alsloom, APA Vice-President, Chair of the Standing Committee
- H.E. Dr. Rizvan Nabiyeu, Head of Azerbaijan Delegation in his capacity as Representative of the APA President

[\(Attachment II\)](#)

### **Standing Committee Session:**

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

The Member Parliaments unanimously adopted the Draft Agenda.

([Attachment III](#))

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

The Committee elected the members of its Bureau as follows:

Chairman: Bahrain

Vice-Chair: Thailand

Rapporteur: Cyprus

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

The Head of Delegation of Bahrain as Chair of the meeting presented his opening remarks by welcoming all delegations to the meeting of Standing Committee and invited them to participate actively and constructively in proceedings of the meeting.

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

APA Secretary General reported on major developments concerning the Standing Committee and outlined his proposals.

([Attachment IV](#))

### **5. General Debate:**

Under this Agenda item, the delegations from the following parliaments presented their remarks on regional and global developments as well as on the content of draft resolutions under consideration at this meeting: Cambodia, Cyprus, India, Iran, Iraq, Jorden, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, UAE.

Among several topics of interest, the following issues were addressed predominantly:

- Recent military aggression against State of Qatar, Iran, Syria, Lebanon, and Gaza by Zionist regime of Israel.
- Regional shortages of water resources.
- The impact of the Best Practices on application of the Resolutions on the national laws of member states.
- Environmental issues, and Climate Changes
- Sustainable Developments Goals and Food Security
- Securing the economic sovereignty of states and multilateral cooperation
- Equal and indivisible security as the basis for the international cooperation and development

([Attachment V](#))

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

Under this Agenda item the Chair, based on shortage of time and importance of topics of the draft resolutions, offered the following three draft resolutions be considered at this session:

- Financial Affairs: Ensuring Efforts for Economic Growth
- Water and Sanitation in Asia for All
- Draft Resolution on Promoting the Halal Economic Principles as a Framework for Ethical, Sustainable, and Inclusive Development (New)

The Chair proposed the remaining draft resolutions be considered by the next Standing Committee meeting.

The participants debated the notion tabled by the Chair and adopted the above three draft resolutions while incorporating relevant amendments.

([Attachment VI](#))

## **7- Any Other Matters:**

No issue was raised.

# **Draft Resolutions of the Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development**

1. Draft Resolution on Financial Affairs: Ensuring Efforts for Economic Growth
2. Draft Resolution on Water and Sanitation in Asia for All
3. Draft Resolution on Promoting the Halal Economic Principles as a Framework for Ethical, Sustainable, and Inclusive Development



## Draft Resolution on Financial Affairs: Ensuring Efforts for Economic Growth

*We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,*

**Expressing** concern on repercussions of the sovereign defaults and financial markets volatility to the economic growth in APA countries;

**Also Expressing** concern on the adverse impact of the continuing fragility of the global economy, the slow pace of the restoration of global growth and trade, the ever-increasing geo-political tensions, the unilateral coercive measures and unlawful economic restrictions, and the increasing systemic risks that threaten financial stability;

**Noting** that a social order based on justice and equality is of critical importance to accelerate social and economic progress everywhere, help in achieving international peace and harmony;

**Appreciating** the measures that have already been taken by Asian Parliaments and their governments to contain the negative impacts of economic crisis in their economies, and expect them to take further steps to stimulate their respective economies;

**Noting** that the economic growth in many Asian Economies has not been shared equally in the society whereby the Gini Coefficient, as reported by the Asian Development Bank, has grown significantly over the past decades and that regional cooperation which have already existed in Asia could serve as a platform for enhancing cooperation among sub regional economic organizations that would improve welfare for all in Asia;

**Noting** that peace and stability in the region is an important contributor to economic growth while occupation, violence, and political instability act as inhibitors for economic development and that maintaining regional collaboration on political stability is crucial;

**Recognizing** also the necessity to effectively reform the current global financial architecture and international tax cooperation so as to achieve a more inclusive and balanced world economic financial and taxation order;

**Encouraging** parliaments to adopt policies through enactment of law and legislations, their legislative and scrutiny roles aiming to enhance the small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and the role of the private sector and increasing its contribution to economic integration, in order to create the appropriate job and jobs opportunities to achieve a comprehensive economic development on human and financial levels in Asia;

**Emphasizing** that the international financial system should bolster sustainable, inclusive, and sustained economic growth, sustainable development, and job creation, promote financial inclusion and support efforts to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty and hunger, in particular in developing countries, while allowing for the coherent mobilization of all sources of financing for development;

**Recognizing** that a sustainable and inclusive development and economic growth are achieved when all nations equally enjoy opportunities to thrive and prosper and when no State seizes such opportunity to the detriment of the others;

**Also Emphasizing** on the role of the private sector by influencing national expenditure policies through the roles of parliaments, particularly with regard to discussions and approval of budgets and financial accounts, as well as the adoption of investment laws and the provision of incentives and guarantees for private sector growth;

**Suggesting** a halal moral economy, which emphasizes fairness, justice, and the moral implications of economic actions that will enable Asian Countries to promote and ensure social equity and the protection of vulnerable groups;

*We therefore,*

1. **Call upon** Asian governments to adopt policy approaches to develop a comprehensive and innovative growth strategies needed to sustain a resilient, balanced, sustainable and inclusive economic growth as necessary means to create decent jobs and reduce inequalities to promote the formation of a regional SME's network;
2. **Welcome** the adoption of Resolution on the Promotion of Inclusive and Effective International Tax Cooperation at the UN (A/C.2/79/L.8/Rev.1) adopted at the second committee of the 79th session of the UN General Assembly which has set a global precedent for the international community to work towards a Member State-led, open-ended intergovernmental negotiating committee for the drafting of the UN Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation and its two early protocols;
3. **Call for** a strengthened coordination from Asian Countries to ensure that the process of developing the global convention on International Tax Cooperation will and should reflect in balance and inclusive manner the perspectives of all UN Member States;
4. **Call upon** APA Parliaments to ensure, respect for the dignity and value of all human beings and ensure adherence to human rights particularly the right to development and social justice by legislative and oversight means, ensuring equality of opportunity for all;
5. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to work on an informal debate at APA platform on the potential benefits of social justice in their respective countries and promote greater cooperation for equitable economic development in Asia;

6. **Urge** APA Member Parliaments to promote social justice and development in their respective policies to raise the living standards of people;
7. **Recommend** APA Member Parliaments to promote adoption of Basel III to improve supervision on financial sector governance and to fill any financial gap in case of any monetary crises;
8. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to support implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as the Sevilla Commitment (Compromiso de Sevilla) of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) and focus on policies that alleviate poverty, including improving access to health, education, capital, employment, and social protection to help close income inequalities;
9. **Call on** APA member parliaments to consider reviewing their respective legislations, where appropriate, to give more support to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) by giving access to low interest credit loan and to provide capacity building and regional networking to integrate SMEs into regional and global value chains;
10. **Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to support financial inclusion for the poor and people in vulnerable situations of society in each respective country and to share best practices of financial inclusion in the region;
11. **Also Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to support the conduct of comprehensive studies, with regional and global coordination regarding weak community groups in vulnerable situations, in the support of the need for the financial integration of the underprivileged;
12. **Recognize** the right to development and stress the importance of investing in human development and activate the concept of partnership among member states and to provide sufficient public funding for education and health for everyone, without discrimination, to face the future global and Asian economic demands;
13. **Stress** the critical importance of a stable, inclusive, and enabling global economic environment and the means of implementation including capacity building technology transfer on mutually agreed-upon terms and financial support for the advancement of sustainable development, for the reliable and effective financing of development and for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, mobilizing public and private, as well as domestic and international resources at reasonable costs; (adopted)
14. **Request** the APA Member governments to channel more funds in joint research and development (R&D) activities as a means to spur innovation and viable economic growth strategies to sustain a more resilient economic growth;
15. **Call upon** the APA Member Parliaments to continuously promote the need for reform in global financial institutions and architecture, financial technology

regulation, with the view for a balanced and fair world economic and financial order based on international law with more participation from developing countries;

16. **Call Upon** APA member countries to strive to create an enabling institutional and business environment that can promote financial stability, financial inclusion, and efficient mobilization and utilization of the available resources;
17. **Strongly condemns** the use of sanctions or any mechanisms of financial and economic pressure on APA Member States applied for political purposes in violations of the international law and UN charter;
18. **Encourage** APA member countries to support the Islamic Bank system in order to enhance the halal moral economy. Cooperation within the member countries of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly will pave the way for economic development in the region;
19. **Urge** member countries to launch concessional financing programs for small and medium enterprises, and support innovation and technology transfer and mutually agreed-upon terms between member states where appropriate, preferably through platforms including United Nations Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries (UNTBLDC).





## Draft Resolution on Water and Sanitation in Asia for All

*We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,*

**Recognizing** the outcome document of the United Nations Summit for the adoption of Post-2015 Development Agenda entitled “*Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*,” adopted in September 2015;

**Recalling** United Nations’ General Assembly resolution (A/64/292) adopted on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2010, which formally recognized water and sanitation as human rights and UN Human Rights Council resolution (A/HRC/RES/18/1) adopted on the 28 September 2011, recognizing that the right to safe drinking water and sanitation are part of the right to an adequate standard of living;

**Welcoming** the SDG goal 6 on ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, including universal and equitable access to drinking water, sustainable water resources management and wastewater treatment;

**Also noting** (adopted) the Nusa Dua Communique adopted by the IPU Parliamentary Meeting on the occasion of the 10th World Water Forum in Bali, Indonesia, May 2024, which encompasses recommendations of, among others, protecting the rights to water and sanitation, promoting adaptive measures, such as more resilient water supply and sanitation systems that can withstand growing climate change impacts, and promoting parliamentary dialogue and cooperation at the regional and international levels;

**Emphasizing** that achieving the sixth goal of the sustainable development goals related to water quality, wastewater management, water scarcity, use efficiency, water resource management, and protection and restoration of water-related ecosystems;

**Stressing** that one of the goals of sustainable development is also to ensure that everyone has access to adequate sanitation services and to put an end to everything that leads to water pollution and the spread of diseases that lead to hundreds of thousands of deaths due to unsafe drinking water or as a result of poor sanitation services that affect public health;

**Deeply concerned** that approximately one billion people across Asia could face severe water shortage by 2050;

**Stressing upon** the need for Asian Governments to focus in national policies on water and sanitation issues and contribute towards international efforts in resolving these issues;

**Encouraging** the development of sanitation and hygiene, especially access to quality toilets, among marginal and vulnerable groups and ensuring the sharing of technology and good practices on water and sanitation with APA member states;

**Emphasizing** that water management will lead to a high level of human health and reduce many diseases, especially as many local, urban, and rural communities rely on wastewater for agricultural production, which may lead to the spread of infectious diseases;

**Encouraging** parliaments within the Asian Parliamentary Assembly to support comprehensive studies, in regional and global coordination, to identify the causes and challenges of water scarcity worldwide and develop solutions to ensure water availability to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals for 2030;

**Affirming** the role of parliaments in setting a strategic developmental vision in collaboration with their governments regarding water management, provided that the vision includes plans with measurable and evaluable indicators;

**Highlighting** the link between sound water management and the need to address the issue of climate change, which threatens drought and dust and sand storms in many regions of the world;

*We therefore,*

1. **Welcome** the inclusion of water and sanitation in Post-2015 Development Agenda and the acceptance of human right to safe drinking water and sanitation by the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council;
2. **Consider** the critical role of parliamentarian in ensuring that the rights to water and sanitation are promoted through the adoption of legislative measures, the oversight of relevant water policies, support on water budget as well as the act of bridging the constituents' aspiration with regards to safe, accessible and clean water, sanitation and hygiene;
3. **Request** Member Parliaments to urge their respective governments to cooperate within their regions to address the water utilization and to study in depth the causes of the water challenges and to provide appropriate solutions and strategies to overcome these challenges;
4. **Encourage** integrated water resource planning and management<sup>1</sup> for reducing widespread scarcity and pollution of freshwater resources in many regions and give priority to the fulfillment of basic needs and safeguarding of ecosystems in developing and using water resources;
5. **Urge** APA Member Parliaments to vigorously engage with their executive branch to address the effects of climate change, that may manifest themselves in the form of water scarcity and flooding in different geographic areas;

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<sup>1</sup> **Integrated water resources management (IWRM)** has been defined by the Global Water Partnership (GWP) as "a process which promotes the coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources, in order to maximize the resultant economic and social welfare in an equitable manner without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems".

6. **Encourage** APA Members to support advanced water technology transfers on voluntary and mutually agreed-upon terms from developed countries to the developing countries of Asia and sharing of good practices for efficient allocation of water among sectors;
7. **Adopt** awareness programs by Member States parliaments to inform their citizens about the problem of water scarcity in order to reduce their wastefulness, prevent pollution or waste, and limit their use to the necessary human needs without any other uses;
8. **Note with interests** the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028 which was held in New York on 22-24 March 2023 in accelerating actions on the internationally agreed water-related goals and targets, including those contained in 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
9. **Call for Supporting** innovation projects in water recycling and wastewater treatment;
10. **Enhance** regional cooperation to share efficient conservation and management of water resources across borders.
11. **Launch** awareness campaigns about conserving water and reducing consumption;



## Draft Resolution on Promoting the Halal Economic Principles as a Framework for Ethical, Sustainable, and Inclusive Development

*We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,*

**Recalling** the Asian Parliamentary Assembly's founding principles, including its commitment to promoting sustainable development, human dignity, economic justice, and mutual cooperation among Asian nations,

**Reaffirming** the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (A/RES/70/1); particularly Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere; Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all; Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries; and Goal 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns,

**Recognizing** the Halal economic principles as an ethical, values-based economic model grounded in the principles of justice (*adl*), trust (*amanah*), transparency (*shafafiyyah*), responsibility (*mas'uliyah*), and compassion (*rahmah*), which align with socially responsible systems of trade, finance, governance, as well as global aspirations for just and equitable development,

**Acknowledging** that the Halal economic principles are not solely limited to food and finance, but encompasses a comprehensive framework including ethical production, environmental stewardship, human dignity, financial inclusion, and community well-being,

**Observing** the increasing global interest in economic systems that address rising inequality, unsustainable consumption, environmental degradation, and ethical lapses in global financial systems,

**Highlighting** the alignment of Halal economic principles with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs), particularly in promoting social justice, environmental protection, and economic inclusion,

**Welcoming** the efforts of States, international organizations, Islamic finance institutions, civil society, and the private sector in advancing halal and ethical economic initiatives,

*We therefore,*

**Consider** the Halal economic principles as a comprehensive and inclusive economic

framework informed by Islamic ethics, promoting moral integrity in production, consumption, finance, labor relations, and governance;

**Underscore** the fact that the Halal economic principles are not limited to Muslim-majority countries but are applicable globally as an ethical, sustainable, and socially responsible model;

**Commend** the Halal economic principles' contribution to the achievement of the SDGs, particularly Goal 1 on Poverty Eradication, Goal 8 on Decent Work and Economic Growth, Goal 10 on Reduced Inequalities, and Goal 12 on Responsible Consumption and Production;

**Promote** the Halal economic principles as a viable and holistic development paradigm that aligns with ethical, sustainable, and inclusive development goals across Asia;

**Encourage** APA Member Parliaments to collaborate with their respective governments to explore and adopt policy frameworks that incorporate the Halal economic principles into national development strategies, fiscal policies, and regulatory environments, particularly in areas of:

- (a) Ethical and sustainable trade
- (b) Inclusive finance and risk-sharing models
- (c) Value-based entrepreneurship
- (d) Social protection systems
- (e) Environmental responsibility through circular and green economy initiatives;

**Invite** APA Member Parliaments and relevant international bodies to develop guidelines for Halal economic principle that extend beyond food to include resource allocation, social stability, and environmental impact;

**Urge** APA Member Parliaments to consider Halal economic principles as budgeting frameworks that promote equitable distribution of resources, reduce economic inequality, enhance financial stability, and foster inclusive prosperity to support sustained social development.

**Call upon** development institutions, central banks, and regulatory bodies to engage with halal and Islamic financial principles, including profit-and-loss sharing, risk mitigation, asset-backed finance, and the prohibition of exploitative practices;

**Encourage** the establishment of academic and policy research institutions focused on the Halal economic principles to generate evidence-based policy recommendations and innovative models of implementation as sustainable tools for tackling poverty issues;

**Encourage** regional and international cooperation, particularly among the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), United Nations agencies, and multilateral financial institutions, to harmonize standards and share best practices in implementing the Halal economic principles;

**Encourage** inclusive participation of all communities, regardless of religious affiliation, in the Halal economic principles, emphasizing its universal principles of fairness, equity, environmental responsibility, and social solidarity;

**Invite** collaboration between APA Member Parliaments and relevant stakeholders-such as national halal certification bodies, civil society organizations, academia, and private sector actors-to co-create initiatives that advance the goals of the Halal economic principles;

**Recommend** APA Secretariat to establish a comprehensive progress report and monitoring mechanism to measure impacts, identify challenges, and propose recommendations for continuous improvement.