



# APA Executive Council Meeting

Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain  
25 January 2026

## Final Report

At the invitation of the Bahrain Council of Representatives, the Executive Council (EC) meeting of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) was held on 25 January 2026 in Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain, with the participation of the following member countries:

Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye and UAE,

### 1. Adoption of the Agenda

The draft Agenda was adopted unanimously.

([Attachment I](#))

### 2. Election of the Bureau

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

- Chairman: Azerbaijan
- Vice Chair: Cyprus
- Rapporteur: Cambodia

### 3. Remarks by Chairperson

H.E. Mr. Rizvan Nabihev, Chairman of the Executive Council and Representative of the APA President and Head of Azerbaijan delegation presented his opening remarks.

([Attachment II](#))

#### **4. Report by APA Secretary General**

Dr. M.R. MAJIDI, APA Secretary General presented his report on the work of the four Standing Committees and other APA activities in the year 2025.

([Attachment III](#))

#### **5. Nomination of Vice Presidents for 2026**

Iran and Qatar were confirmed as nominees of the two posts of APA Vice Presidency for Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development as well as Budget and Planning, respectively for the year 2026. In the course of the Executive Committee Meeting, Tajikistan submitted the letter of nomination of the parliament of Tajikistan as APA Vice-President and Chair of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs. The Chair of the Executive Council encouraged the participating delegation to nominate themselves for the position of vice president for the Standing Committees on Political Affairs for 2026.

#### **6. Request of the Asian-African Parliamentary Council (AAPC) for APA observer status**

The Asian-African Parliamentary Council (AAPC) on 20 October 2025 officially applied for APA observer status. The Executive Council considered the application but was unable to reach a consensus on the issue.

#### **7. Consideration and adoption of Final Reports of Standing Committees on:**

- Economic and Sustainable Development

The Executive Council Meeting considered and approved the 3 draft resolutions presented by the Standing Committee and sought the endorsement of the 16<sup>th</sup> Plenary.

- Social and Cultural Affairs

The Executive Council considered and approved the 14 draft resolutions presented by the Standing Committee and requested for the final approval by the 16<sup>th</sup> Plenary.

- Political Affairs

The Executive Council considered and approved 9 draft resolutions presented by the Standing Committee and recommended the draft resolutions to the 16<sup>th</sup> Plenary for its approval

- Budget and Planning

The Executive Council considered the draft resolution on Budget & Planning presented by the Standing Committee for the subsequent approval of the 16<sup>th</sup> APA Plenary.

## **8. Report on the Bureau Sessions**

The representative of the APA term President in his capacity as Chairman of the Bureau in 2025-2026, presented the Report to the Executive Council. He stated that during the year 2025, the APA Bureau had four sessions on the sidelines of the Standing Committee meetings respectively in Manama, Moscow, Mashhad, Doha and two other sessions on the margin of 150<sup>th</sup> and 151<sup>st</sup> IPU Assemblies, in Tashkent and Geneva. The Bureau had also its final meeting on the eve of the 16<sup>th</sup> APA Plenary. The EC approved the Report of the Bureau meetings 2025-2026.

[\(Attachment IV\)](#)

## **9. Draft Agenda of 16<sup>th</sup> APA Plenary**

The Executive Council considered and adopted the draft Agenda of the 16<sup>th</sup> APA Plenary.

[\(Attachment V\)](#)

## **10. Any other matters**

At the end of the meeting, the participants expressed sincere gratitude to the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan, under the leadership of Speaker Sahiba Gafarova, for its successful two-year presidency of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly from 2024 to 2025, and warm appreciation for its leadership and dedicated efforts in advancing the noble objectives of the APA through effective parliamentary diplomacy during this period.

The participants also unanimously praised the professional approach of the representative of the term President, Dr. Rizvan Nabihev, as well as his consensus-building attitude on various APA issues throughout the two-year term of Azerbaijan's presidency.

Noting the final presence of Mr. Nicolaos Tornaritis as the Head of Cyprus delegation in APA Meetings, the EC highly appreciated his valuable contributions during his long years of legislative career.

# Asian Parliamentary Assembly



## Executive Council Meeting

Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain  
24-28 January 2026



## Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Election of the Bureau
3. Remarks by Chairperson
4. Report by APA Secretary General
5. Nomination of Vice Presidents for 2026
6. Request of the Asian-African Parliamentary Council (AAPC) for APA observer status
7. Consideration and adoption of Final Reports of Standing Committees on:
  - Economic and Sustainable Development
  - Social and Cultural Affairs
  - Political Affairs
  - Budget and Planning
8. Report on the Bureau Sessions
9. Draft Agenda of 16<sup>th</sup> APA Plenary
10. Any other matters

## Attachment II

**Remarks by Dr. Rizvan Nabihev, MP, Milli Mejlis, Republic of Azerbaijan**

**Asian Parliamentary Assembly**

**Executive Council Meeting**

**Manama, Bahrain, 25 January 2026**

Honorable Chair,

Distinguished Secretary General, His Excellency Majidi,

Dear Colleagues,

It is with great honor and a deep sense of responsibility that I address the Executive Council of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly here in Manama, in my capacity as Head of the Azerbaijani Delegation.

I extend my sincere appreciation to the Council of Representatives and the Shura Council of the Kingdom of Bahrain for their gracious hospitality and exemplary organization, which have created an excellent environment for constructive dialogue and have contributed significantly to the success of this important meeting.

It is a great privilege for me to present some outcomes of the chairmanship of the Milli Mejlis of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly.

Azerbaijan regards the Asian Parliamentary Assembly as a valuable platform for advancing Asian solidarity and cooperation across a wide range of fields, and firmly supports efforts to further strengthen its institutional and organizational capacities.

The challenges confronting our region today are complex and interconnected, making multilateral cooperation not only desirable but essential. In this context, interparliamentary organizations play a vital role in bringing together the collective efforts of Asian countries. It is precisely here that parliamentary diplomacy emerges as a key instrument.

With these challenges in mind, it was no coincidence that the 15th Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly in Baku was organized under the theme “The Role of Parliamentary Diplomacy in Strengthening Multilateral Cooperation in Asia.” Milli Mejlis will continue to contribute actively to initiatives aimed at achieving just, lasting, and peaceful solutions to all outstanding issues in the broader Asian region, in full accordance with the fundamental norms and principles of international law.

As an independent and effective tool in international relations, parliamentary diplomacy empowers parliamentarians, national legislatures, and interparliamentary bodies to engage constructively, build consensus, and contribute collaboratively to shaping regional and global policies.

In this context, I would like to emphasize the importance of the Coordinating Meetings of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly held in April 2025 in Tashkent and in October 2025 in Geneva,

both chaired by the Milli Majlis of Azerbaijan. These meetings were held respectively within the framework of the 150th and 151st Assemblies of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and played a significant role in advancing parliamentary diplomacy among Asian nations.

**Distinguished Delegates,**

During Azerbaijan's chairmanship, one of our primary objectives was to strengthen the institutional and organizational capacity of the APA, enabling it to play a more effective role in shaping unified parliamentary positions on issues of shared international concern.

I am pleased to report that our organization continued to grow. The Plenary in Baku approved the full membership of the Sultanate of Oman and granted observer status to the Republic of Belarus, thereby further reinforcing the representativeness of our organization.

At its meeting in Baku, the Executive Council considered and the Plenary approved all 29 draft resolutions, reflecting the wide scope of the Assembly's work. These draft resolutions, prepared by the Standing Committees on Social and Cultural Affairs, Budget and Planning, Economic and Sustainable Development, and Political Affairs, were thoroughly examined.

The Executive Council also reviewed, and the Plenary approved, amendments to Articles 5 and 8 of the APA Charter, as well as Rule 15 of the Rules of Procedure, presented by the Working Group on Statutory Documents and the APA Secretariat.”

Furthermore, the Executive Council welcomed the decision concerning equal payment and equal voting rights, underscoring the importance of a sustainable and predictable budget for the effective functioning of the Assembly. Member States were called upon to take the necessary measures to ensure the timely allocation of their financial contributions. In accordance with Article 8 of the APA Charter, the number of delegates remains in the Assembly unchanged.

The Executive Council endorsed the recommendation that the Committee on Palestine continue its work as a subcommittee of the Political Standing Committee. This decision confirms that the APA's institutional structure will continue to consist of four Standing Committees.

I am pleased to note that all decisions and recommendations of the Executive Council were subsequently endorsed by the 15th APA Plenary in Baku, demonstrating our shared commitment to consensus, institutional strength, and effective parliamentary cooperation.

I wish continued success to the Meeting of the Executive Council here in Manama, building upon the meaningful outcomes achieved in Baku. I also look forward to the Plenary Session dedicated to the important topic, “The Role of Asian Parliaments in Strengthening Intercultural and Intercivilizational Dialogue in Asia.”

We appreciate Bahrain's great experience in this field, and I will present Azerbaijan's experience in my speech at the meeting tomorrow of the Plenary/

Thank you very much for your kind attention.

## Attachment III



# The Executive Council Meeting

25 January 2026  
Manama, Bahrain

## Report by the APA Secretary General

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

It is a distinct honor, in my capacity as Secretary General, to address this meeting of the APA Executive Council and to present my report on the recent APA activities, including the work and outcomes of the Standing Committees.

At the outset, I wish to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, and the Milli Majlis of Azerbaijan on presiding over this important meeting. I am confident that, under your prudent and tactful leadership, the Council Meeting will successfully achieve the objectives set before it.

I also take this opportunity, on behalf of the APA Permanent Secretariat and myself, to convey our sincere appreciation to the state authorities and the Council of Representatives of the Kingdom of Bahrain for their generous hospitality and excellent organization of this important meeting in the magnificent and historic city of Manama.

**Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished Delegates,**

Following the successful convening of the 15<sup>th</sup> Plenary in Baku in February 2025, APA maintained strong institutional momentum throughout the year. Under the guidance of the APA President, with the effective support of the Vice-Presidents and the Chairs of the four Standing Committees, all scheduled Standing Committee meetings for 2025, were held successfully in Manama, Moscow, Mashhad, and Doha respectively. The final reports of all the four Standing Committees, together with their draft resolutions, are included in today's agenda of the Executive Council for consideration and adoption for recommendation to the 16<sup>th</sup> APA Plenary.

In addition to the Standing Committee meetings during the year 2025, the APA had two more events as follows:

1. Four Bureau Sessions on the sidelines of Standing Committee Meetings respectively in Manama, Moscow, Mashhad, and Doha,
2. Two other sessions on the margin of the 150<sup>th</sup> and 151<sup>st</sup> IPU Assemblies, in Tashkent and Geneva respectively.

Report of these meetings will be submitted to the Executive Council for its approval.

**Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished Delegates,**

APA constitutes a unique platform for the Asian parliamentarians to share experiences, present ideas, and exchange views for establishing institutionalized multilateral cooperation, develop and achieve consensus on appropriate common strategies leading to promotion of parliamentary dimensions of parliamentary cooperation.

However, to have a more productive and efficient organization, we shall strive altogether, in the face of impeding challenges, to further improve the format, functioning and outcomes of our regular programs. This will not happen unless to proceed hand in hand for collective measures within our family members and to do everything in our power for appropriation of the required funds and endeavor for removal of all other shortcomings.

In a nutshell, proceeding from this conviction and standpoint, we, in the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA), should try hard and work altogether in overcoming the challenges besetting us by relying on common values and ideas. It is on this premises that we warmly welcome cooperation and stronger ties with other regional parliamentary bodies.

Furthermore, I deem it necessary to underline certain setbacks emanated from the poor cooperation on the part of some members, who decline to render the expected collaboration, despite continued efforts of the APA Secretariat inviting them to share with us their insight and experience on various issues of importance, most particularly on best practices and impact of the adopted resolutions in their national legislations.

Consultation with the concerned parliamentary experts, reveals the **Priorities and Concerns in Asia and the roles of Asian Parliaments in this respect** as follows:

- A. The adverse effects of climate change, environmental problems such as pollution, contamination, extreme weather events, loss of biodiversity, land degradation, desertification, and water scarcity, which are all intertwined phenomena and global in nature; therefore, they impact every country require an international response.
- B. Cyber Security, AI and their role in the enactments and expurgation of laws,
- C. Failure to fully realize certain important components of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted by United Nations Member States and subsequently reaffirmed by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), remains a matter of deep concern. Regrettably, the serious undermining of multilateralism—along with the rise of unilateralism—has significantly contributed to this shortfall, jeopardizing international peace and security and underscoring the critical role of Parliamentary Diplomacy in addressing these challenges.
- D. Impact of the APA Resolutions and their applicability in the legislation of national parliaments
- E. Selection of specific items of vital importance for discussion in the agenda of each of the four APA Committees for adoption of relevant resolutions in a bid to come up with new ideas conducive to the current global developments.

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

A central responsibility of this Executive Council meeting is the endorsement of nominations for APA Vice-Presidents. In this context, we must finalize nominations for the Vice-Presidents who will chair the Standing Committees in 2026. The nomination of the Islamic Parliament of Iran as APA Vice-President and chair of the Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development for 2026, was endorsed by the 15<sup>th</sup> APA Plenary. The Shura Council of State of Qatar, is also nominated for the APA Vice-President and the chair of the Standing Committee on Budget and Planning for 2026 - 27. Thus, the post of APA Vice-Presidents and chairs of Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs and Standing Committee on Political Affairs is still available. I am confident that this

meeting will successfully conclude this process and forward its recommendations to the 16<sup>th</sup> Plenary.

Last but not least, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to one of our esteemed colleagues who has maintained many years of active participation in the meetings of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly and has decided to retire. Although the Head of the Cypriot delegation, Mr. Nikolas Tornaritis, will not be attending future meetings, his contributions and memory will always remain with us.

**Thank you for your kind attention.**

Asian  
Parliamentary  
Assembly

Bureau Meeting to EC/Rep/2026/01

24 January 2026

Bahrain



## Executive Council Meeting

Manama, Bahrain  
24 January 2026



### Report of the Bureau Sessions in 2025

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**Distinguished Delegates,**

**Dear Colleagues,**

It is an honor and privilege for me, as Chairman of the APA Bureau, to present to the Executive Council the Report of the Bureau Sessions held during for its consideration and approval.

As a welcome practice established at the initiative of the APA Secretariat, APA Bureau comprising the APA President (Azerbaijan), Vice-Presidents (Bahrain, Iran, Qatar, and the Russian Federation), the Rapporteur (Iraq), and the Secretary General, held its four regular sessions respectively on the sidelines of the relevant Standing Committees and addressed a wide range of organizational and substantive matters leading to the adoption of adopted decisions aimed at advancing the APA's annual program of work as follows:

- The first Bureau session was held on 14 September in Manama, Bahrain, on the sidelines of the Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development.
- The second Bureau session took place on 29 October in Moscow, Russian Federation, alongside the Standing Committee meeting on Social and Cultural Affairs.
- The third Bureau session was held on 3 December in Mashhad, Iran, on the margin of the Standing Committee on Political Affairs.
- The fourth Bureau session convened on 23 December in Doha, Qatar, alongside the Standing Committee on Budget and Planning.

- The last Bureau Session took place on the eve of the 16<sup>th</sup> APA Plenary on 24 January 2026.

In addition to the above-mentioned four sessions, the APA Bureau convened two more meetings in April and October on the margin of the 150<sup>th</sup> and 151<sup>st</sup> IPU Assemblies, held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, and Geneva, Switzerland, respectively.

**During the Bureau Sessions in 2025, the following issues were raised, discussed, and agreed upon:**

- To convene meetings of Secretaries General of APA member parliaments alongside APA Plenary Sessions.
- Draft declarations prepared by the host parliaments shall be circulated on the eve of every APA Plenary Sessions.
- Draft resolutions that have not received substantive amendments, shall be removed from the agenda of the relevant Standing Committees.
- Based on Article 5 of the APA Financial and Staff Regulations, the Euro and Iranian Rial currencies, shall be applied in all APA documents.
- The APA Bureau stressed on the opening of a bank account for the assessed contributions to be deposited as soon as possible.
- The proposal to establish an “APA Award” was welcomed and agreed to be further discussed in future meetings.
- Due to the long texts of some draft resolutions, Bureau decided to shorten these documents, while keeping the main topics intact.
- The Bureau endorses the decisions of the Standing Committees to avoid consideration of any draft resolution which is deferred twice.
- The titles of the draft resolutions are to stay intact.
- The draft resolution on the topic of establishment of Association of Secretary General proposed by Bahrain was welcomed in principle, and the Standing Committee on Budget and Planning was tasked to further consider it.
- As regards the item on establishing Associated APA Centers and Institutions, the general framework of the idea was supported and the Bureau requested further of the issue.
- On the issue of the APA Award, the Bureau decided to consider possibility of further options.

- The APA Secretariat raised the important issue of the quorum of the Plenary Meetings, and the Rule 32 of the APA Rules of Procedure was amended as follows: The Plenary shall only convene if at least half of the incumbent parliament are represented.
- The Bureau called on the Standing Committee to decide on the number of the draft resolutions under considerations by each Committee

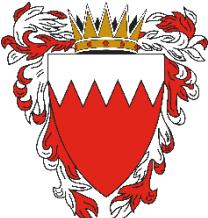
**Distinguished Delegates,**

**Dear Colleagues,**

In conclusion, in my capacity as Representative of the APA Term President and Chair of the APA Bureau, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to all the Bureau members for their active and constructive participation in Bureau sessions throughout 2025. I also extend my gratitude to the APA Secretariat for its professionalism and effective organization of the Bureau meetings during the year 2025.

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

# Asian Parliamentary Assembly



## The 16<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session

Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain  
24-28 January 2026



## Draft Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Election of the Bureau
3. Remarks by APA President, H.E. Speaker of the Bahrain Council of Representatives
4. Report of the Chairperson of the Executive Council
5. Report of the Secretary General on the work of the Organization
6. General Debate: Statements by Head of Delegations on  
*"The Role of Asian Parliaments in Strengthening Intercultural and Intercivilizational Dialogue in Asia: Opportunities, Challenges, and Future Pathways"*
7. Meeting of the Standing Committees
8. Meeting of the Drafting Committee on Manama Declaration
9. Presentation and adoption of the Reports of Standing Committees on:
  - Economic and Sustainable Development
  - Social and Cultural Affairs
  - on Political Affairs
  - Budget and Planning
10. Approval of the APA Vice- Presidents for 2026
11. Re-Confirmation of APA President for 2027-8
12. Any other matters