



SC/ Rep/2011/02
14 September 2011

Report of the Meeting
Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs
13-14 September 2011
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

1. The Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs held its meeting on 13-14 September 2011. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 in the morning. Delegations from Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Jordan Kuwait, Maldives, Palestine, Pakistan, Russian Federation Syria, Thailand, and Turkey participated in the meeting. List of participants is annexed to this report. (Annex I)
2. The Agenda was adopted. Honorable Mr. Mohammad Hassan Aboutorabi Fard, Deputy Speaker of the Islamic Parliament of Iran was elected as the Chairman, Honorable Mr. Abdurrachman Abdullah of the House of Representatives of Indonesia and Honorable Mr. Saleh Ashour of Kuwait were elected as Vice chairmen. Honorable Mr. Mohamed Zubair from the Parliament of Maldives was elected as Rapporteur,
3. The Chair made an opening statement. He welcomed the participants, expressed thanks to the Secretary-General for the written reports he submitted to the meeting on all agenda items, including Protecting and Respecting Cultural Diversity, Globalization, Health Equity, ICT and Combating Corruption. He also praised the achievements of APA in addressing important issues affecting Asia and underlined that the progress of APA work is due to active engagement and participation of Member Delegations. He pointed out that Asia should seek to address challenges it faces by banking on Asian capacities. His statement is annexed to this report. (Annex II)
4. The Secretary-General made a statement. He thanked Member Parliaments for their active participation in advancing the cause of Asian integration. He reviewed the agenda items and made a number of suggestions as to how to make advances in each and every one of the five agenda items. In making progress on the work of the APA, the Secretary-General stressed the need to focus on common ground in Asia to create momentum. His statement is annexed to this report. (Annex III)

5. The Standing Committee discussed its agenda items in the following order: Protecting and Respecting Cultural Diversity, Challenges and Opportunities of Globalization, Achieving Health Equity, Combating Corruption. The working groups on combat smuggling of cultural objects in Asia and Ad-hoc Working Group on ICT were subsequently convened followed by a round of discussions on preparations required to activate the already agreed working group on drug trafficking and narcotics.
6. The list of documents before the Meeting included:
 - a. The Agenda item on Protecting and Respecting Cultural Diversity in Asia:**
 - i) APA/ Res/2010/05 of 30 November 2010, Fifth Plenary Session on Protecting and Respecting Cultural Diversity in Asia,
 - ii) SG/Rep/2011/2 of August 2011, the report of the Secretary-General on the Protecting and Respecting Cultural Diversity in Asia,
 - b. The Agenda item on Challenges and Opportunities of Globalization:**
 - i) APA/Res/2010/03 of 30 November 2010, Fifth APA Plenary Session on the Challenges and Opportunities of Globalization,
 - ii) SG/Rep/2011/2 of 22 August 2011, the Report of the Secretary-General on the Challenges and Opportunities of Globalization,
 - c. The Agenda item on Achieving Health Equity:**
 - i) APA/Res/2010/02 of 30 November 2010, Fifth APA Plenary Session on Achieving Health Equity,
 - ii) SG/ Rep/2011/2 of 22 August 2011, the Report of the Secretary-General on Achieving Health Equity,
 - d. The Agenda item on Combating Corruption:**
 - i) APA/Res/2010/01 of 30 November 2010, Fifth APA Plenary Session on Combating Corruption,
 - ii) SG/Rep/2011/2 of 22 August 2011, the Report of the Secretary-General on Combating Corruption
 - e. Ad-hoc Working Group on ICT:**
 - i) APA/Res/2010/04 of 30 November 2010,
 - ii) SG/ Rep /2011/2 of 22 August 2011 on ICT
7. The Preliminary Reports of the Secretary-General on the agenda items had been forwarded to all Member Parliaments.
8. The participants welcomed the Reports of the Secretary-General and expressed appreciation for the manner in which they were submitted to the Standing Committee meeting for their considerations.
9. The Honorable Members exchanged views on different elements and ideas in the Report of the Secretary-General with a view to pursuing their objectives. The Standing Committee took note of the Suggestions for further steps to be taken as mentioned in the Report of the Secretary-General.
10. Participating delegates further made some points in the following order of their submission:

The Agenda item on cultural diversity:

- Honourable Parliament Member of Palestine:
- Importance of taking into consideration the Asian particularities when discussing cultural diversity,

- The need to have programs and mechanism for Inter alia exchange of cultural views for strengthening the cultural cooperation,
- Introduction of an operative Paragraph condemning various manifestations of Israeli occupation including its attempt to alter the cultural heritage of Palestinian population under occupation.
 - Honourable Parliament Member of Indonesia:
 - Asking for contribution of all representatives in discussions.
- Cultural diversity should be managed to serve as a stronghold of the Asia or in other words as an opportunity and not an impediment.
- The need for a strategy to raise awareness at grassroots level and the important role of parliaments in this regard.
- Respecting tolerance in Indonesia which is an example of cultural diversity and the endeavour made to avoid misunderstanding, violence and disunity.
 - Honourable Parliament Member of Syria:
 - Cultural aggression has serious effects on our general culture.
- Underlining the importance of coordination among APA Member Parliaments to promote free and fair information and emphasizing the need to address the problem of misinformation circulated by mass media of dominant powers.
- The need to explore ways and means to manage the cultural aggression. A special website should be established in this regard.
 - Honourable Parliament Member of Maldives:
 - Supporting establishing an Asian peace fund.
 - Honourable Parliament Member of Islamic Republic of Iran:
 - The importance of cultural identity beside the cultural diversity and the APA role in assisting the protection of the rich heritage of the Asia in the overriding flow of globalization.
- Cooperation in introducing the Asian heritage to the Asian nations including through exhibiting the cultural assets in museums.
 - The need to criminalizing cultural theft in APA legislations.
- Honourable Parliament Member of Jordan:
 - The need to explore the causes behind lack of progress in Asia despite its richness and great capacities.
 - Jordan located in the heart of Arab world is endeavouring to utilize the full national potentials for progress.
 - Jordan trying to help the propagation of and respect for cultural diversity.

The Agenda item on the Challenges and Opportunities of Globalization:

- Honourable Parliament Member of Pakistan:
 - On the theory of globalization and the point that we'll have a global village, one should ask if there is a fair and proportionate share of globalization for the Asia or if it shall be overtaken by the West.
 - The need to monitor globalization with a view to keeping a balanced share in the process.
 - The civilized world and US spend on war but the plight of starving people in Somalia and other disaster stricken areas are ignored systematically. Asia should have common goals and strategy of cooperation for overcoming the problems and disasters.

- The need give full support to the issue of Statehood of Palestine in the UN.
- Honourable Parliament Member of Kuwait:
 - Privileges and progress made in communications, globalization and the importance of cultural diversity.
 - Appropriate management of globalization has important requirements including the infrastructure, technology progress and transparency.
 - The need to respect the values of democracy and tolerance
 - Kuwait helping its people to advance the pillars of sustainable development.
- Honourable Parliament Member of Indonesia:
 - On globalization, and human life being in enigma;
 - APA may contribute more seriously to betterment of human aspect of globalization and critical role of education confirmed by the UNESCO report.
 - Asia having %60 of population and dire need of scarce resources should be equipped with expertise to appropriately respond the evolving challenges.

The Agenda item on Health Equity:

- Honourable Parliament Member of Turkey:
 - Importance of Social determinants of health being closely linked to job, welfare etc.
 - Health inequities are result of social determinants.
 - No body may be denied health service in Turkey's health care system.

The Agenda item on Combating Corruption:

- Honourable Parliament Member of Thailand:
 - The need to strengthen the efforts to combat corruption including Trans- national corruption.
 - Thailand trying to conform to the content of the Convention on corruption.
 - Organized crimes including the drug trafficking endangering the very social fabrics of societies and the need to cooperate including through APA to help controlling it.
- Honourable Parliament Member of Syria:
 - fighting corruption has been a weak point among Asian countries and the need for a kind of memorandum of understanding or another mechanism to be agreed among us.

The working group on combat smuggling of cultural objects in Asia

The Working Group welcomed the 12 principles attached to resolution on cultural diversity and regarded them to constitute a sufficient basis for developing a common approach to combat the smuggling of cultural items. Member Parliaments agreed to present these principles to their national parliaments and to report thereon to the Secretary General any possible observation on them.

The Ad-hoc Working Group on ICT

The Working Group welcomed the idea of Asian Virtual Parliament in light of recent progress made on information and communication technologies. Several delegations stressed the magnitude of such a project and recommended taking into consideration the legal and financial challenges that Asian Virtual Parliament entails. The Working Group was briefed by the delegate from Russian Federation on opportunities and challenges associated with developing an Asian Virtual Parliament on the basis of Russian experience. It was agreed to further exchange views between Member Parliaments and to receive further input from the Russian Delegation.

The Working Group on drug trafficking and narcotics.

The Working Group discussed the question of drug trafficking in Asia with Russia emphasizing the significance and relevance of intensification of regional coordination including among the legislators, more efficient involvement of regional players such as Afghanistan and active engagement of a committee in discussing this important issue. The Working Group supported further action by APA on the issue and decided to request the SG to prepare a report on the contribution of Asian parliaments including a review of relevant legislations in Member Parliaments to combat narcotic trafficking on the basis of views he will receive from Member Parliaments. The report is to be submitted to the meeting of the Subcommittee on Environmental Issues, Global Warming, and Planting Billions of Trees on social and cultural affairs in 2012.

The Standing Committee was briefed on and condemned the Israeli attack on Free Gaza Flotilla on 31 May 2010. The statement made by Honourable Parliament Member of Turkey is annexed.

Honourable Parliament Member of Pakistan briefed the Standing Committee on the frequency and consequences of US drones, bombing blind targets in Pakistan and other foreign intrusions, claiming innocent civilian lives and culminating in socio-economic damages. The Standing Committee condemned the attacks and other acts of violence against the territory of Pakistani and its tribes.

The Standing Committee unanimously decided to fully support the membership of Palestine in the United Nations. The decision is annexed.

The Chair in his concluding remarks alluded to the fact that the emerging Asia shall be a different continent. A powerful continent which, given its potentials shall be pioneering against arrogant powers. Asia is about care for the future of humanity and respect for cultural diversity and tolerance and moving against corruption and drug trafficking.

11. The Standing Committee expressed appreciation to the House of Representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran for excellent organization of the meeting and the hospitality offered to all participants.
12. The Standing Committee recommended the following draft resolutions to the first APA Executive Council Meeting of 2011, to be forwarded to the APA plenary for its consideration:



**S C/Social & Cultural/ Res/2011/05
14/ September, 2010**

**Draft Resolution
on
Protecting and Respecting Cultural Diversity in Asia**

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling APA Resolutions, APA/Res/2010/05, APA/Res/2009/05, APA/Res/2008/17 and APA/Res/2007/02 on Protecting and Respecting Cultural Diversity in Asia;

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General on Protecting and Respecting Cultural Diversity, SG/Rep/2011/02 Dated 22 August 2011, submitted to the meeting of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran on 13-14 September, 2011;

Bearing in mind the valuable contribution that dialogue among religions and cultures can make to an improved awareness and understanding of the common values shared by all humankind,

Recognizing the significant role of parliaments both in strengthening national cultural policies and in harmonizing Asian approach for respecting cultural diversity, and protecting Asian cultural heritage, including tangible, non-tangible cultural items;

Emphasizing the need to acknowledge and respect the richness of all religions and cultures and to seek common ground among civilizations in order to address comprehensively common challenges facing humanity,

Emphasizing that a common humanity unites all cultures and civilizations and allows for the celebration of the highest attainments of cultural diversity which constitutes the collective heritage of Asian societies,

Noting that globalization brings greater interrelatedness among people and increased interaction among cultures and civilizations, but it also presents the challenge of preserving and celebrating the rich intellectual and cultural diversity of humankind and of civilization,

Welcoming all efforts made by Asian Parliaments, Governments, civil society organizations and countless individuals to enhance understanding through constructive dialogue among religions and cultures,

Relying on the cultural diversity as well as the common heritage of Asian civilizations in promoting the inter- religious and inter-cultural dialogue;

Expressing determination to facilitate integration in Asia through respecting cultural diversity and promoting dialogue and understanding;

Expressing Concern about smuggling of cultural items, particularly those that are in areas under foreign occupation;

Encouraging relevant government agencies to increase facilitation, consular services as appropriate for citizens of Asian countries to allow for greater people-to-people interaction;

1. Welcome the Report of the Secretary-General contained in SG/Rep/2010/02, dated 22 August 2011.
2. Affirm the role of parliaments to raise public awareness about the imperative of promoting respect for cultural diversity as a source of strength in Asia.
3. Recognize that tolerance is one of the fundamental values of humanity, which entails an active promotion of respect for cultural diversity, culture of peace and dialogue among civilizations;
4. Condemn Israeli attempt to alter the cultural heritage of Palestinian population under occupation, the dangerous excavations under Al-Aqsa Mosque and its surroundings, imposing changes in the Palestinian educational curriculum, changing the original Arab names of places into Jewish names, including what so-called “list of Jewish heritage” Islamic and Christian holy and historical sites, demolishing of houses and cultural centres, confiscation of land and building of settlements in Jerusalem and around, and in the whole occupied Palestinian territories of the West Bank, continuing building the separation wall, the racist laws passed by the Knesset such as : the law of Citizenship and the law describing Israel as the Jewish State; condemn also the Israeli occupation of Golan heights and its attempt to alter the cultural heritage and educational curriculum of the inhabitants of Golan heights, as well as Israeli continuous occupation of and attacks against southern Lebanon.
5. Express determination to prevent cultural homogenization in the context of globalization, through increased intercultural and inter-religious exchanges
6. Urge Asian states, including parliaments and governments to develop an approach to sustainable development that takes into account not only politico-economic factors but also psych-cultural ones;
7. Recognize the responsibility of parliaments to actively promote values against racism and intolerance; optimize the benefits of diversity in Asian nations, and encourage values such as justice, non-discrimination, democracy and respect within and among communities and nations, in particular through public information and educational programs to raise awareness and understanding of the benefits of cultural diversity;

8. Call upon all actors on the international scene to build an international order based on inclusion, justice, equality and equity, human dignity, mutual understanding and promotion of and respect for cultural diversity and fundamental human rights, and to reject all manifestations of exclusion and arrogance that are based on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

9. Condemn all forms of contemptuous actions against religions, Holy Books, religious places and religious rituals;

10. Underline the importance of strengthening coordination between APA and international and regional organizations such as UNESCO, ISESCO and relevant Asian NGOs active in promoting cultural diversity and civilizational dialogue;

11. Consider the smuggling of cultural objects from Asia to constitute a threat to the richness of Asian cultural heritage, and underline the important role of parliaments to both raise public awareness about this challenge and to strengthen, where necessary, legislative basis to fight smuggling of cultural objects and return the stolen items back to the original location, in Asia;

12. Urge Member Parliaments to ratify international conventions such as the International Convention for the Safeguarding of World Natural and Cultural Heritage and also the International Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage;

13. Endorse the Principles to study for drafting common legislation (annexed to this resolution) to serve as guidelines to develop a model legislation that Member Parliaments may consider adopting, as common legislation, on the basis of their own internal procedure, to enhance Asian capacity to combat smuggling of cultural objects in Asia;

14. welcome the decision by the APA Plenary to establish an open-ended ad-hoc working group to prepare a draft common legislation to enhance Asian capacity to combat smuggling of cultural objects in Asia and to present a progress report, in coordination with the Secretary-General, to the relevant meetings of the APA;

15. Request the Secretary-General to continue to sponsor an award to be presented annually to an Asian artist; author, poet, film maker, painter, etc, who best conveys the APA message of Asian cooperation and integration;

16. Encourage Parliaments and governments of Asian countries to promote dialogue and understanding among cultures and religions to foster Asian common values and enhance cooperation, harmony and integration, peace and friendship;

17. Express its appreciations to the Iranian Center for Inter-religious Dialogue (CID) for hosting the “International Conference on Dialogue among Religions and Culture in Asia” on 11-12 September 2011, and regards its final declaration a comprehensive document for promoting dialogue and friendship in Asia and encourage all Member Parliaments to take practical measure for its implementation.

18. Request the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member Parliaments on their efforts to implement this resolution and to submit a report thereon to the next meeting of the Sub-Committee.

Annexed

Principles to study for drafting common legislation

1. Lawful exchange of cultural and historical properties enriches cultural and social existence of nations; strengthens mutual respect and leads to amity and friendship among them,
2. Movable cultural heritage of every nation is considered as fundamental elements of culture and civilization of that nation, and an integral part of regional and human culture and civilization and thus necessitates regional cooperation to fight theft and smuggling of cultural properties,
3. Protection and safeguarding of historical cultural properties from the perils of unlawful excavations, theft and smuggling, is inter alia the duty of the governments,
4. Clandestine excavations in archeological sites, theft, illicit import and export of cultural properties constitutes as one of the main reasons for the cultural impoverishment of the countries of the origin of these objects.
5. Establishment and strengthening of a proper system of management to protect immovable cultural heritage and reinforce coordination and cooperation among concerned institutions for combating theft and smuggling of cultural properties,
6. Documentation, preparation and completion of an inventory of national cultural properties,
7. Proper supervision over archeological excavations, standardization of the means to protect cultural items at the site of discovery,
8. Taking educational steps to enhance public awareness on the necessity of protecting cultural objects,
9. Encouraging and developing the educational, scientific and technical institutions required for protecting cultural items; expanding museums; supporting cooperation and exchanging cultural objects among museums in Asian countries,
10. Issuing special permit for those cultural objects the export of which is authorized; and thwarting illicit import and export of cultural items with no permit, and restitution thereof to the country of origin,
11. Promoting international cooperation to combat smuggling of cultural items with the countries of origin on restitution of cultural properties as well as extradition of those charged with theft and smuggling of cultural items,
12. Stress on the inalienable right of every country concerning classification and declaring as non-transferable certain cultural properties and preventing entry into the national territory of those items.



**S C/Social & Cultural/ Res/2011/06
14 September, 2011**

**Draft Resolution
on
Challenges and Opportunities of Globalization in Asia**

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling APA Resolution, APA/Res/2010/3, APA/Res/ 2009/04,

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

Stressing the view that global net-working provides opportunities for Member Parliaments to share experiences and engage in fruitful dialogue on globalization impact in Asia;

Recognizing the important role of Asian parliaments in developing a harmonized approach in dealing with globalization impact on Asia;

Emphasizing the need for free and further access for all to information, communication, and new technologies globally;

Underlining that information technology has become a strategic resource for world development that by no means is less important than natural and social resources and it takes on a new quality which ensures an effective development of all areas of human activities.

Underlining the importance of drafting a common legislation among Member Parliaments on Bridging the Digital Divide in Asia, and welcoming the establishment of an open-ended Ad-hoc Working Group on ICT;

Supporting the proposal for establishing the “Virtual Asian Parliament” to enhance deliberation and strengthen cooperation among Member Parliaments;

Expressing concern on cultural hegemony as well as social homogenization of Asian societies;

Concerned about the possible negative impact of globalization on widening the gap between the rich and the poor, and the further marginalization of developing countries in Asia;

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

1- Welcome the Report of the Secretary-General contained in SG/Rep/2011/02 Dated 22 August 2011.

2- Call on Member Parliaments of APA to promote networking among major governmental and non-governmental institutions dealing with the impact of globalization in Asian countries.

3- Encourage Member Parliaments of APA to share best practices and exchange experiences regarding global process and challenges in Asia with a view to formulating a common Asian approach toward globalization through holding special workshops and forums among Asian Parliaments.

4- Welcome the Report made by the Secretary-General on technical requirements of “Asian Virtual Parliament” that aims at enhancing deliberations among APA Delegates and encourage the Working Group on ICT to expedite the process of establishing the “Asian Virtual Parliament”.

5- Underline the importance of drafting a common legislation among Member Parliaments on Bridging the Digital Divide in Asia, and call on the Ad-hoc Working Group on ICT to take appropriate steps for preparing a framework for such legislation.

6- Request Secretary General to collect data and information from APA Member Parliaments to share their best practices and implementation on ways and means to survive from social and cultural crisis and to gain benefit from globalization based on Asian norms and values.

7- Request the Secretary-General to seek possible technical and financial assistance from Member Parliaments and other institutions to facilitate the implementation of this resolution.

8- Call on the Member Parliaments of APA to initiate dialogues on the possible alternative to the current world foreign exchange reserves and the untying of the countrys’ currency to certain foreign currencies.

9- Request the Secretary-General to seek inputs from Member Parliaments on the progress to implement this resolution and submit a report thereon to the next Committee meeting.



**S C/Social & Cultural/ Res/2011/07
14 September, 2011**

**Draft Resolution
on
Achieving Health Equity in Asia**

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling APA Resolution, APA/Res/2010/02, APA/Res/2009 /06, dated 29 December 2009,

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

Referring to the final report of WHO Commission on Social Determinants of Health (CSDH) submitted to the Director-General of WHO in 2008;

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

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

Emphasizing the need to comprehensively deal with Social and Health related problems emanating from the drug abuse;

Expressing concern about the existing socio-economic inequalities and their impact on the poor and disadvantaged groups, as well as the remote geographical areas;

1- Welcome the Report of the Secretary-General contained in SG/Rep/ 2010/02, dated 22 August , 2011.

2- Underline the report of the Commission on Social Determinants of Health for addressing the impact of socio-economic inequalities on health at global, regional and national levels.

3- Encourage the APA Member Parliaments to incorporate the issue of Social Determinants of Health (SDH) more intensively in other APA themes and activities.

4- Encourage the APA Member Parliaments to strengthen collaboration with a view to formulating a coherent approach in regard with social determinants of health in Asia, especially education, housing, and employment.

5- Invites the APA Member Parliaments to promote health equity in Asia through sharing experiences and best practices, and actively advocate for inclusion of social determinants of health in national policies and programs,.

6- Encourage the APA Member Parliaments to adopt policies and measures to improve service provision, and health financing system as well as health insurance plans for a more equitable resource distribution.

7- Call on Member Parliaments of APA to promote networking among major governmental and non-governmental institutions dealing with social determinants of health in Asia, and expand cooperation with academic institutions, none-governmental organizations, civil society groups and the media in order to identify the main social determinants of health.

8- Call upon APA Member Parliaments to encourage their respective governments to create and implement more new tactical policies, activities, and programs to ensure a success in the MDGs achievements with regard to health policies.

9- Call on APA Member Parliaments to take necessary actions and to encourage its respective governments to ensure child nutrition needs in order to create better generation.

10- Encourage the APA Member Parliaments to actively participate in the process of arriving at common objectives which could form the basis of national legislations promoting health equity in Asia, with due attention to social protection policies for health care, long term disability, and protection during unemployment and old age.

11- Request the Secretary-General to seek inputs from Member Parliaments on the progress made on the implement of this resolution and shares them with all Member Parliaments.



S C/Social & Cultural/ Res/2011/08
14 September, 2011

Draft Resolution
Proposed by the Ad-hoc Working Group on
Information and Communication Technology “ICT”

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling APA Resolution, APA/Res/2009/04, 29 November, 2010

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General to the open-ended Ad-hoc Working Group on ICT, SG/Rep/2011/02 Dated 22 August 2011, submitted to the meeting of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran on 13-14 September, 2011;

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

Underlining that the Asian Virtual Parliament will pave the way for sharing information, harmonizing legislation and raising people’s awareness about the activities of the legislative body and ensure a more profound feedback between society, power and individuals, and thus contribute to strengthening peace in Asia.

Supporting the proposal for establishing the “Virtual Asian Parliament” to enhance deliberation and strengthen cooperation among Member Parliaments in more effective way;

1- Welcome the Report of the Secretary-General on “Asian Virtual Parliament” that aims at enhancing deliberations among APA member parliaments.

2-Reiterate that Virtual Asian Parliament must hinge upon a set of regulations and principles ensuring:

Transparency and openness for the parliament as a whole and for its structural units and for each Member of Parliament;

Universal access to parliament information;

Creation of mechanisms allowing to raise the responsibility of parliamentarians before their electorate;

Broader dialogue among Member Parliaments;

Participation in a global information society;

3- Request APA Member Parliaments to arrange in their own parliament the technical facilities for the establishment of the Virtual Asian Parliament.

4- Underline the necessity to work out the legal status of the materials and documents which will be circulated in Virtual Parliaments.

5- Emphasize the need to resolve the challenges of communication channels for organizing video conferences which can be used for holding meetings of Virtual Asian Parliament.

6- Underline the need to establish a powerful portal for office automation for documents, video conferencing to conduct virtual meetings, online translation, voting ability, text and voice communication.

7- Request the secretariat to conduct a pilot project of VAP and share the result with the APA member parliaments.

Welcome the invitation of Russian Federation to provide and share its experience on of Virtual Parliament with Member parliament and the Secretariat.

8-Request the Secretary-General to seek possible technical and financial assistance from Member Parliaments and other institutions to facilitate the establishment of VAP.

9- Decide to hold the next meeting of the ICT Working Group at the sideline of the meeting of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs in 2012 to expedite the establishment of the Virtual Asian Parliament.

10- Request the Secretary-General to seek the views of the Member Parliaments on the progress made to implement this resolution and submit a report thereon to the next meeting.



S C/Social & Cultural/ Res/2011/09
14 September, 2011

Draft Resolution on Combating Corruption

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling APA Resolutions on Combating Corruption contained in APA/Res/2007/05, APA/Res/2008/18, APA/Res/2009/03 and APA/Res/2010/01,

Recalling also APA Plan of Action on Combating Corruption contained in APA/Res/2007/05/Annex,

Expressing determination to strengthen parliamentary initiative to implement the APA Plan of Action and resolutions on Combating Corruption,

Supporting the establishment of Asian Parliamentarians Against Corruption (APAC) as an APA institutional framework to strengthen parliamentary capacity to implement APA Plan of Action and to explore other areas of cooperation in fighting corruption in Asia,

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

1. Welcome the Report of the Secretary-General on Combating Corruption contained in SG/Rep/2011/... of September 2011;
2. Express determination to strengthen our parliamentary capacities to develop a strong and comprehensive anti-corruption strategy, including by taking practical measures to implement APA Plan of Action and APA resolutions against corruption;
3. Take note of anti-corruption conventions and binding legal instruments of European Union, Organization of American States and Africa;
4. Consider the APA decision to establish the Asian Parliamentarians Against Corruption (APAC) to have been a major step to enhance the synergy of Asian parliaments to effectively fight corruption;

5. Consider all APAC delegates attending the 6th Plenary to be the Founding Members of APAC¹;
6. Decide to hold the initiation and the first meeting of APAC in 2012 in... at a time to be coordinated by the Secretary-General, when at least 10 APAC Founding Members participate, and to report thereon to the 2012 meeting of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Issues;
7. APAC will consider and adopt its constitution, other necessary documents and priorities of its work, including the study of the need for an Asia-specific convention against corruption at its initiation meeting in 2012;
8. Request the Secretary-General to prepare in consultation with interested APA Delegations and Dr. Nasser Sane, the Chairman of GOPAC from Kuwait, the required draft documents for the initiation meeting of APAC in 2012;
9. Request also the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member Parliaments on implementation of this resolution and to report thereon to the next meeting of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural issues

¹ Founding Members of APAC are requested to fill out the attached form and submit it to the APA Secretariat.

**Asian Parliamentary Assembly
Membership Form
Founding Members, Asian parliamentarians Against Corruption (APAC)
Personal Information**

Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. <input type="checkbox"/>		
Name:		
Address:		
Work:	Home:	
Email:		
Telephone:		
Work:	Home:	Mobile:
Fax:		
Work:	Home:	
Preferred Language: English <input type="checkbox"/> Arabic <input type="checkbox"/>		

Professional Background

Professional Expertise:
Specify which parliament are you a member?
Terms/Years as member of parliament:
parliamentary Committees Served in:
Previous anti-corruption involvement and experience:

ANNEX- I
List of Participants

No.	Name of Parliament	Delegates
1	Indonesia	1 - Honorable Dr. Abdurrachman Abdillah, M. P. 2 – Honorable Mrs. Sunarjati Arjoso, M. P. 3 – Mr. Mochamad Ilyas, Secretary to delegation, 4 – Mr. Hasani Edelin, Officer of MFA of Indonesia
2	Iran	1- Honorable Mr. M.H. Abotrabi Fard, Deputy Speaker of Islamic Parliament of Islamic Republic of Iran 2 – Honorable Dr. Hossein Amiri, M P 3 – Honorable Mr. Mohsen Nariman, M P 4 – Honorable Mr. Mohammad Ali Delavar, M P 5 – Honorable Mr. Amir Taherkhani, M P 6 - Honorable Mr. Seyed Javad Zamani, M P
3	Jordan	1 - Honorable Mr. Abdallah Idwairej, M P 2 – Honorable Mr. Abed Alnaser Bani Hani, M P 3 – Mr. Ayman Al-Majali, Staff
4	Kuwait	1 - Honorable Mr. Saleh Ahmad Ashour, M P 2 – Honorable Mr. Ali Alomaier, MP. 3 – Mr. Theyab Aldaihani, Assistant to the delegation
5	Maldives	1 – Honorable Mr. Mohamed Zubair, M P 2 – Honorable Mr. Ibrahim Muththalib, M P
6	Pakistan	1 - Honorable Senator Mr. Mir Jan Muhammad Jamali, Deputy Chairman of Senate, Head of Delegation 2 - Honorable Senator Mr. Mir Lashkari Raisani, 3 – Mr. Muhammad Hashim Khan, Official, Senate Secretariat
7	Palestine	1 - Honorable Mr. Quntantine Kurmush, Deputy Speaker 2 - Honorable Mr. Zuhair Sanduka, M P 3 – Mr. Omar Hamed, Advisor
8	Russian Federation	1 - Honorable Senator Mr. Rudik Iskujin, 2 – Mr. Vyachelav Nekrasov, Advisor.
9	Syria	1 - Honorable Mr. .Mohammad Osman Burhan, MP 2 - Honorable Mr. Zakariya Salwaye, MP.
10	Thailand	1 – Honorable Mr. Charoen Kanthawongs, Head of Delegation 2 - Honorable Senator Mr. Thira Suwankul, 3 – Ms. Phinissorn Sikkhabandit, Secretary to the delegation
11	Turkey	1 - Honorable Mr. Yuksel Ozden, Head of APA Group, MP
12	APA Secretariat	1- H.E. Dr. M.H. Nejad Hossienian, Secretary-General 2- H.E. Dr. Ali Khoshroo, Assistant Secretary- General 3- H.E. Mr. Amir Hossein Zamani Nia, Assistant Secretary- General 4- Mr. Bijan Moshirvaziri, Assistant Secretary- General 5- Mr. Mohsen Espery, Assistant Secretary- General 6- Mr. Amir Ahmad Baygui, Coordinator and Protocol Manager of the Meeting 7- Mr. Saeed Sohrabinia, Information Technology Manager of the APA Secretariat

ANNEX- II

**“Speech of His Excellency Mr. Mohammad Hassan
Aboutorabi Fard, Deputy Speaker of the Islamic Parliament
of Iran ”**

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Mr. chairman,

Distinguished Colleagues,

Esteemed Secretary General,

At the outset, on behalf of the Islamic Parliament of Islamic Republic of Iran and my own behalf, I would like to express my sincere appreciations to the honorable representatives of the Asian Parliaments for participating in the meeting of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs. Active participation of the esteemed representatives in the important and sensitive discussions of cultural and social issues will lead to further integration and convergence among Asian states for facing increasing global challenges.

The social and cultural issues in Asia are so expanded that have made this continent to a very unique place with varieties of ideologies, customs, arts and mysticisms. Cultural diversity, existence of noble religious basis and presence of young and efficient man power, are the valuable wealth in Asia. Cooperation among Asian parliaments in the continent with cultural and

territorial capacities and vast population is the main reason for deepening peace and friendship and expanding convergence in Asia. If this cooperation among Asian parliaments and states further expanded, then Asia will be able to decrease the influence of trans-regional powers in Asia and play its historical and effective role in solving inter- continental issues. Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) as the most popular institute in Asia, play fundamental role in creating friendship and cooperation, combating poverty and corruption, expanding cultural and scientific cooperation, improving health equity for all social classes and expanding tourism.

In spite of having great capacities in the field of civilization, still Asia is facing challenges as a result of globalization. With the process of globalization of economy, many people were send to margin and were deprived from the privileges of globalization and instead faced with its challenges and problems such as unemployment, stagnation, and economic crisis in their daily life. In the field of culture, the process of globalization has weakened the cultures of Asian people and has imposed the culture of consumption and hedonism. Cultural heritage and civilization of Asia have valuable diversity which should not be melted in the process of globalization and uniformity of culture. Cooperation among Asian parliaments for preserving and respecting cultural diversity in Asia is an essential element for strengthening and preserving Asian identity.

Holding of International Conference on “Dialogue among Religions and Cultures” by “Center for Dialogue among Religions” shall create appropriate opportunity for intellectuals and scholars in order to emphasize on fundamental role of religions in solving social and cultural problems in Asia. Understanding and dialogue among Asian religions and cultures will lead to the promotion of cooperation and convergence, deepening of peace and friendship and negation of discrimination and violation. In contrary to western propaganda, cultures and religions will not led to enmity and conflict

in the civil communities but rather they will led to kindness, respect and friendship because these are existing common elements in all religions. Here I deem it necessary to express my gratitude to the “Center for Dialogue among Religions” and request to this meeting to place final declaration of the Conference in the agenda of cultural affairs.

In fact for combating poverty and corruption in Asia, as the two important factors for underdevelopment of this continent, we should try to cooperate with each others in order to find coordinated methods. Exchanging experiences and using successful examples in this regard, are good mechanisms for strengthening parliamentary cooperation. Expansion of parliamentary communications and serious cooperation among legislative, monitoring and executive organs, are the main tools for combating corruption. Establishment of parliamentary institute in Asia for combating corruption shall lead to further efficiency and dignity of Asian parliaments in controlling and combating corruption. Health equity is an important element in spiritual and material progress and development of Asian nations. Paying special attention to the effective social factors in the process of health equity such as providing appropriate accommodation and public education, paying attention to the health of children and women particularly in remote areas, expansion of public health insurances and reduction of injustice and discrimination, are the essential factors for having healthy society. Man and nature are two important factors in creating human civilization. Today environment and human’s health are in serious danger. So the APA should find solution for these two human phenomena. Establishing of working committees among member states during previous year, were important steps for materializing the above- mentioned goals and objectives.

Since the APA has taken the first steps successfully for creating efficient structure, it is necessary to expand parliamentary cooperation at the executive and practical levels. Adoption and ratification of common

legislative among Asian parliaments was always considered and discussed since the creation of this Assembly and all the members have emphasized on this important issue repeatedly. All the issues that Asian countries are commonly facing obliged us to adopt common legislative. In the working group on 'combating against smuggling of cultural items', which shall be established in the margin of today's meeting, all the general principles of Asian cooperation for preservation of cultural heritage shall be discussed. So I sincerely request all distinguished representatives to take important measures vis-à-vis combating against smuggling of cultural items. The issue of health equity and its social aspects are general issues and if we adopt common legislative in this regard, then we can control diseases and further improve health and social conditions at Asia. In the field of information technology, Asia still suffers from information gap. There fore I should emphasize that the efforts of this meeting for reducing information gap, are considered very important for Asia. Here I would like to emphasize that if APA considered adoption of common legislative as one of its main important priorities, then we can be hopeful to achieve tremendous progress and convergence in Asia.

Unfortunately some of the APA member states are still under occupation and suppression of foreign forces. People of Palestine are victims of insult and aggression. The world is amaze of the genocide and crimes committed against humanity by Zionist regime. The siege of defenseless people of Gaza, massacre of innocent children and mothers, bombardment of residential houses are all clear examples of genocide and slaughter committed by Israel. We strongly condemned Israel regime for changing cultural heritage of Palestinians and particularly condemned its efforts in preventing Muslims and Christians to go to holy Al Quds for performing their religious prayers. APA should adopt united position vis-à-vis all these vengeance of Israel for changing cultural heritage of one nation.

Preservation of cultural dignity, social security and political stability in Asia depend on withdrawal of foreign forces from region and non- intervention in domestic affairs of Asian countries. The roots of extremism, violation and terrorism lie in injustice, domination, aggression and occupation. The key for solving Asia's problems should be searched inside Asia and any intervention by trans- regional forces in Asia's affairs, should be prevented and stopped as soon as possible.

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished Representatives,

At the end I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Esteemed Secretary General and Secretariat of APA for making serious efforts in order to materialize the goals and objectives of the Assembly and wish success for the APA in making further cooperation and convergence among Asian countries.

Wassalamo Alikom

ANNEX- III

Statement by Dr. Nejad Hosienian,

The APA Secretary General

**International Conference on Dialogue and Understanding among Cultures
and Religions in Asia**

Tehran 11-12 September 2011

Honorable members of parliaments

Distinguished religious and academic figures

Ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset, allow me to express my deepest appreciations to you all for participating in this timely and significant Conference which reflects your attachment to dialogue and understanding in Asia.

Asian Parliamentary Assembly, as the most inclusive institution representing Asian people, has always underlined the importance of dialogue among cultures and religions for promoting peace and friendship both within Asian countries as well as between Asia and the rest of the world. In line with this great goal, the Fifth APA Plenary in Damascus in November 2010 welcomed the initiative of the Center for Inter-religious Dialogue (CID) of the Organization of Culture and Islamic Relations to host jointly with the Islamic Parliament of Iran the “International Conference on Dialogue among

Religions and Cultures in Asia”. I express my sincere thanks and appreciation to the Center for Inter-religious Dialogue and the Islamic Parliament of Iran for working so hard in the last six months to organize this important gathering for promoting understanding and friendship in Asia.

As the cradle of civilizations and great religions, Asia is an inspiring source of cultural and religious diversity and plays a major role in fostering integration among different nations and cultures. Integration in Asia mainly relies on respecting cultural diversity and promoting dialogue and understanding. Both the common heritage of Asian civilizations and Cultural diversity necessitate inter-religious and inter-cultural dialogue among Asian nations that fosters Asian common values and enhances cooperation and integration, peace and friendship while diminishing the risk of discrimination, violence and war.

I cherish this opportunity to exchange views with you all regarding the current critical state of the world, the role of religion in society and grounds for peace and understanding.

At the age of globalization, we all are living in an interconnected, but divided world. Globalization has brought in a new era of interdependent human relations and culture. These interconnected processes have transformed human interactions at all local, national, regional and global levels. The digital and information revolution has transformed the way the world learns, communicates, interacts, does business and treats illnesses. In social and cultural fields it has changed the shape of human society from individual life

style to massive popular art industry. Global culture strongly undermines the social and cultural identity of different communities and weakens the traditional social institutions such as family and education.

It is ironic that our world, so interconnected globally, is divided so dangerously regarding power, wealth and belief, even though, war, violence and conflict mostly have an underlying economic or political source. However, unfortunately different cultural identities and various religious beliefs and belongings are blamed so often.

History shows that religion has had an indisputable role in creating and enhancing civilizations and causing them to flourish. Religion and faith play a significant role in the public sphere. Many human morals and values have stemmed from religion. However, we cannot ignore the fact that at times religion has been a source of conflicts.

One of the factors that leads to the outbreak of violence is the existence of different identities, each of which are trying to establish themselves through the negation of the others. I should emphasize that all major religions create a sense of identity for their believers essentially bringing them together in a circle of faith. However, this circle is not opposing with other circles, but rather can be inclusive of them by basing its relationship with other "identities" on compassion, kindness and friendship.

Religious figures have underlined that at the core of every single one of the religion is the virtue of compassion which means to feel with the others. This

is crucial to the ethical and spiritual vision of all religious traditions that: “Do not treat others as you would not like to be treated yourself.” Compassion is not only essential for religious communities, but also for a healthy economy and good governance. Unless we implement this significant rule, treating all nations as we would wish to be treated ourselves, we will be unable to live together in peace and friendship in our interdependent world. It is important for all of us in the current chaotic world to understand that it is war and aggression that result in misunderstandings on the one hand, and become a source of hatred and insecurity on the other. This is while major world religions have strongly called on their followers to live in peace and harmony with humanity. This love can liberate us from fear, greed, hatred and aggression and turn our egotistic will and tendencies into one that is ready for friendship and compassion. Accordingly, to promote understanding and peace to negate destructive atmosphere of war and aggression, the United Nations, with a global consensus, named the year 2001 as the year of “Dialogue among Civilizations.”

And now, with respect to Asian religions, I should emphasize that not only dialogue is possible, but coexistence, cooperation and collaboration to achieve global peace is a must at this crucial time. A culture of dialogue and peace, founded on inclusion, mutual respect, and embracing diversity as an asset and not a liability, is a key contributing factor to overcome extremism and violence, which are often fueled by humiliation and anger caused by injustice and domination. Sustained dialogue among and within religions and cultures, and between religious leaders and political leaders, is a pressing requirement of our time, empowering societies and nations to recognize

their common humanity and destiny. There will be no conflict between state and religion, when the state is democratic and religion is committed to human dignity and rights.

It is imperative to engage in dialogue about matters that are essential for materializing peace and justice in the world. Political and religious leaders should recognize that their common concerns and shared values are more significant than their differences, hence working together to give moral leadership at local, national and international levels. Justice and equality, revered by all religious and cultural traditions, are key to peaceful interaction among individuals, communities and nations. Religious leaders, mindful of their moral authority and responsibility to take a stand, and complementing the constructive efforts of political leaders, can and should significantly heal divisions, and contribute to advancing social justice and human rights, and preventing war and violence.

At the end, as the APA Secretary General, I would like to register my sincere thanks for your active participation and fruitful deliberation regarding the role of religions and cultures in Asia for promoting peace and friendship. The Secretariat welcomes the opportunity to include the input of this important meeting into its agenda at the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural affairs to be held in the next two days.

Thank you Mr. Chairman,