



Asian Parliamentary Assembly
**Report of the Meeting of the
Special Committee of APA Women Parliamentarians
December 2015
Phnom Penh- Cambodia**

1. The Special Committee of APA Women Parliamentarians held its meeting on 9 December 2015 in Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia. Delegations from Afghanistan, Cambodia, Cyprus, Indonesia, Iran, Kirgizstan, Korea DRP, Kuwait Lao PDR, Pakistan, Russian, Thailand, Turkey, and Vietnam participated in the meeting. (Annex I)
2. The meeting considered and adopted the draft agenda (Annex II). Honorable Mrs. Khuon Sudary the member of the National Assembly of Cambodia was elected as the Chairperson; Honorable Mrs. Suwannei Sirivejchapum Member of the National Assembly of Thailand, was elected as the Vic-Chairperson, and Mrs. Dr. Stella Mishiaouli Demetriou from the National Assembly of Cyprus was elected as the Rapporteur of the meeting.
3. The document before the Meeting was the draft Resolution on Special Committee of APA Women Parliamentarians (APA/ Res. 2015/16).(Annex III)
4. Honorable Ms. Khuon Sudary the Chairperson of the Committee in her presentation emphasized on the equality of women and men and the importance of their role in promoting peace and cooperation in Asia. She made it clear that no positive action is possible without collaboration of men and women. She also

mentioned that the implementation of ideas which come from the Secretariat of APA is crucial for Member Parliaments. She then opened a discussion on the notion of equality and ways and means of promoting the position of women in Asia.

5. His Excellency Dr. Seyed Ali Mahmoudi Deputy Secretary-General of the APA drew the attention of Asian Parliamentarians to the necessity of fulfillment of the paragraph of the resolution especially those parts that refer to the issues such as combating violence, and preventing of sexual harassment against women and girls including in arm conflicts. In this regard he mentioned the situation of women in war zones, especially **aria** that invaded and occupied by DAESH in which brutal crimes are executed against the women and girls.

He explained that based upon the Resolution on Special Committee of APA Women Parliamentarians adopted in Lahore in 2014, the Secretariat was requested to allocate a one part of the website of the Assembly to facilitate a network between Women Parliamentarians of Asia. He informed the meeting that this part which specified for women is included on the first page of APA's new website. He added that the construction of the new website for the APA Secretariat has been given priority and as soon as the project is completed, APA Women Parliamentarians will be able to get advantage of the capacities of the section entitled "Women Parliamentarians".

6. The participants engaged in a general debate on ways and means required for promoting and implementing of the resolution and expressed their views on the subject matters. Upon extensive deliberation by participants, certain proposals were accepted and referred to the APA Secretariat for incorporating them in the draft resolution.

7. Parliamentary delegations from Cambodia, Cyprus, Indonesia, Kuwait, Pakistan, Russian, Thailand, Turkey, and Vietnam participated in discussions. They drew the attention of the committee to the hardship of women in rural areas of Asia; difficulties that women face in the Middle East especially in Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan regarding economic and political matters. They pointed out that women need to exchange views and learn from each other. It was emphasized that inclusion of at least one woman in all APA delegations from each parliament is

needed to be re-emphasized. Another noticeable proposal was inclusion and effective participation of women in all peace building processes. This issue proposed by delegation of Pakistan and Cyprus to be reflected in the Draft Resolution on Special Committee of APA Women Parliamentarians.

8. The Special Committee expressed appreciation to the Parliament of Cambodia for excellent organization of the meeting and the generous hospitality extended to all participants. On behalf of all distinguished delegates, the chair particularly thanked the APA Secretariat for outstanding service it has provided for the smooth running of the meeting. Appreciations were also made to the staff of the local secretariat for its effective support for the meeting.