



Asian Parliamentary Assembly

**Report of the Meeting of the
Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs**

December 2015

Phnom Penh- Cambodia

1. The Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs held its meeting on 10 December 2015 in Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia. Delegations from Bahrain, Cambodia, Cyprus, Indonesia, Iran, Kuwait, Malaysia, Pakistan, Palestine, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Turkey, and Vietnam participated in the meeting. (Annex I)

2. The meeting considered and adopted the draft agenda (Annex II). Honorable Mr. Dr. Esmail Jalili from the Consultative Assembly of Iran was elected as the Chairman, Honorable Mrs. Em Ponna from National Assembly of Cambodia was elected as the Vic-Chairman, and Mr. Vu Hai Ha from National Assembly of Viet Nam was elected as the Rapporteur of the meeting.

3. The list of documents before the Meeting included:

1. Draft Resolution on Measures to Promote Cultural Diversity and Protect Cultural Heritage in Asia;

2. Draft Resolution on Asian Integration through Information and Communication Technology;

3. Draft Resolution on Collaboration on Health Equity in Asia;

4. Draft Resolution on Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers in Asia;

5. Draft Resolution on Asian Parliamentarians against Corruption;

6. Draft Resolution on Coordinating Meeting of APA Women Parliamentarians;

7. Draft Resolution on Promoting Inter-Faith Dialogue and Harmony among World Religions;

8. Draft Resolution on Legal and Legislative Cooperation in Combating the Smuggling of Cultural Items in Asia;

9. Draft Resolution on Effective Cooperation in Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking in Asia.

4. In the opening session, Honorable Mr. Dr. Esmail Jalili from the Consultative Assembly of Iran expressed his view on social and cultural matters as the bases of cooperation in Asia and their positive effects to strengthen friendship and cooperation in this continent.

5. His Excellency Dr. Seyed Ali mahmoudi Deputy Secretary General of APA pointed out the importance of different issues in the resolutions on social and cultural matters which almost covers all the subject matters on regional and international affairs.

6. The participants engaged in a general debate on ways and means required for promoting and implementing of the previous APA resolutions. Distinguished delegates from Bahrain, Cambodia, Cyprus, Indonesia, Kuwait, Malaysia, Pakistan, Palestine, Russian Federation, and Saudi Arabia, expressed their viewpoints on subject matters of the draft resolutions. Finally all the draft

resolutions were adopted by the delegations except the “draft Resolution on Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers in Asia”. Based up on the proposal of Russian Federation that some of the articles of the resolution referring to several international conventions are not consistent with legal regulations of this country, some parliamentary delegations raised the same or similar positions concerning the policy of their respective countries. After a long discussion by parliamentary delegations on the necessity of evaluating different aspects of the subject, eventually the meeting decided that the draft resolution on Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers in Asia be postponed to the next meeting of the standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs for full consideration in order to achieve a unanimous decision by APA Member Parliaments.

7. Based on the decision of APA Executive Council held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran on 2-3 November 2015, three Ad-hoc Working Group Meetings were set up to take place under the auspices of Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs set up on 8 December 2015 in Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia. The purpose of the meeting was to consider three issues as follows:

I. Developing a model legislation for combating the Smuggling of Cultural Items (APA/Res.2015/18);

II. Establishment of the Virtual Asian Parliament (APA/Res.2015/11);

III. Parliamentarians against Corruption (APA/Res.2015/14); The meeting considered and adopted the draft agenda (Annex II). Honorable Senator Chhit Kin Yeat from the National Assembly of Cambodia was elected as the Chairman, Honorable Mr. Mohammad Javad Nazarimehr from Iranian Parliament was elected as the Vic-Chairman, and Honorable Mr. Zuhair Sanduqa from Palestine was elected as the Rapporteur of the meeting.

Delegations from Bahrain, Cambodia, Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Pakistan, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Turkey, and Vietnam discussed about different aspects of the issues. After full consideration, the meeting made decision on the above mentioned topics as follows:

1. Concerning developing a model legislation for combating the Smuggling of Cultural Items, a new operative paragraph was added in the resolution with a view to developing a model legislation on combating of smuggling cultural items based on principles annexed to the resolution, as well as national legislative procedures of respective Member Parliaments. The operative was suggested to be considered in the next meeting of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs.

2. On the establishment of the Virtual Asian Parliament the member parliaments wellcomed the project as a necessary and positive step for further facilitating APA communication and the exchange of information among member parliaments and its readiness to collaborate with APA Secretariat on the primery technical and financial study of the project. The meeting decided to transfer the issue to the subject of "Asian Parliament".

3. With regard to the issue of Parliamentarians against Corruption, it is decided that as a fundamental step different aspects of the subject are studied through collaboration of APA Member Parliament with the Secretariat.

7. The Standing Committee expressed special 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.