



SC/2008/01
15 May 2008

Report of the Sub-Committee

on

Asian Integrated Energy Market

Moscow, 15 May 2008

1. The Sub-Committee on Asian Integrated Energy Market held its 1st meeting on 15-16 May 2008 in Moscow, the Russian Federation. Delegations composed of APA delegates and energy experts from the following Member Parliaments participated in the meetings of the Sub-Committee: Afghanistan, Bahrain, China, Kuwait, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, the Philippines, Russian Federation, and Saudi Arabia. The list of participants is attached as Annex 1.
2. The Honorable, Mr. Valeriy Yasev, the Vice-Speaker of the State Duma, the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation was elected as the Chairperson of the Sub-Committee. The Honorable, Mr. Hezam Al Otaibi, the head of the delegation of Saudi Arabia was elected as the Vice-Chairman of the Sub-Committee.
3. The list of documents before the Sub-Committee included:
 - APA/Res/2007/08, dated 19 November 2007, Resolution on the Asian Integrated Energy Market,
 - APA/Res/2007/08/Annex, dated 19 November 2007, Plan of Action on the promotion of an Integrated Energy Market in Asia,
 - APA/Energy Com/2007/01, dated 20 November 2007, Resolution on Energy, and
 - SG/Rep/2008/01/rev.1, dated 14 May 2008, The Report of the Secretary-General on the Asian Integrated Energy Market to the Energy Sub-Committee.
4. The Preliminary Report of the Secretary-General to the Energy Sub-Committee contained in document SG/Rep/2008/01 had been forwarded to all APA Member Parliaments on 29 April 2008, and has been available on the site of the APA Secretariat.
5. The Sub-Committee welcomed the Report of the Secretary-General,



SG/Rep/2008/01/rev.1, on Asian Integrated Energy Market, and expressed appreciation for the timely manner in which it was submitted to APA Member Parliaments and the Sub-Committee for its consideration. The Sub-Committee exchanged views on many elements and ideas in the Report of the Secretary-General with a view to pursuing the objectives of the Plan of Action on Promotion of Asian Integrated Energy Market.

6. Some delegations expressed the need to explore ways to bring West Asia, East and South East Asia together in all carriers of energy, and discuss the broader issues of energy. The Sub-committee discussed the issue of oil prices and its impact on the food supply. References were made to high oil prices and the need to address the consequences of continuing rising prices of oil for importers of energy, particularly oil importing developing countries.
7. In accordance with Operative Paragraph 3 of the Resolution on the Asian Integrated Energy Market, APA/Res/2007/08, dated 19 November 2007, The Sub-Committee decided to hold its second meeting at a venue and date to be coordinated by the Secretary-General in order to further consider the report of the Secretary-General and make further recommendation to the First Executive Council meeting in 2008 to be forwarded to the APA for consideration of the Standing Committee on Energy.
8. The Sub-Committee listened with interest to the Secretariat presentation on Asian Gas Network and decided to further consider it in the second meeting of the Sub-Committee to allow Member Parliaments more time to study the issue with their governmental experts.
9. The Sub-Committee took note with interest of the Secretary-General's observations in Paragraphs 16-20 of his Report to the Sub-Committee on the issue of establishing an "organization" or a "body" to pursue the objectives delineated in the Plan of Action on Promotion of Asian Integrated Energy Market, as called for by Operative Paragraph 2 of Resolution, APA/ Res/2007/07 and Operative Paragraph 4 of Resolution, APA/Energy Com/2007/01. The Sub-Committee agrees that in order to establish such organization or body, some intermediary measures are necessary to develop the political will and prepare a solid ground for the success of such organization when it is established. In this context, many delegates expressed support for the role of Parliaments in promoting informed dialogue in Asia on all aspects of Asian Integrated Energy Market through establishing advisory Groups as need arises on specific issues of energy to explore the best strategies to promote implementation of the objectives delineated in the Plan of Action.
10. In this context, the Sub-Committee recommends the following draft resolution to the First Executive Council meeting of 2008, to be forwarded to the APA Plenary for consideration of the Energy Standing Committee:



Draft Resolution

on

Establishing the “APA Advisory Council on Energy”

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling Resolution on the Asian Integrated Energy Market, APA/Res/2007/08, dated 19 November 2007; the Plan of Action on the promotion of an Integrated Energy Market in Asia, APA/Res/2007/08/Annex, dated 19 November 2007; Resolution on Energy, APA/Energy Com/2007/01, dated 20 November 2007;

Welcoming the Report of the Secretary-General on the Asian Integrated Energy Market, SG/Rep/2008/01/rev.1, dated 14 May 2008, to the 1st meeting of the Energy Sub-Committee held in Moscow on 15-16 May 2008;

Expressing concern about the broader issues of energy, including the consequences of rising oil prices for oil importing developing countries;

Taking note of the concept and the structure developed by the Secretary-General in Paragraphs 16-20 of his Report on the establishment of “APA Advisory Council on Energy” as a preliminary step towards establishing an organization to pursue the objectives delineated in the Plan of Action;

Recognizing the importance of dialogue between producers, consumers and transit countries of energy in Asia to promote stability of global energy market;

Resolving to work together to decrease energy intensity in Asia, particularly in the Middle East and the CIS countries;

Emphasizing the resolve of Asian Parliaments to promote, as expeditiously as possible, the Asian Integrated Energy Market in the interests of all peoples in Asia and beyond;

Encouraging the respective governments of Member Parliaments to support the efforts of the APA towards that end;

1. Decide to establish “Advisory Groups” as need arises on specific issues of energy to provide technical advice to the Sub-Committee in order to pursue the implementation of the objectives delineated in the Plan of Action on Promotion of Asian Integrated Energy Market.
2. Request the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member Parliaments on the implementation of this resolution and to report thereon to the next meeting of the Sub-Committee.



11. The Sub-Committee took note of the measures and policies recommended in Paragraph 33 of the Report of the Secretary-General on increasing energy efficiency and urged APA Member Parliaments to forward a report on their national experiences to the Secretary-General as early as possible. The Sub-Committee requests the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the subject with a view to exchanging information on the best practices to reduce energy intensity and to submit it to the next meeting of the Sub-Committee.

12. The Sub-Committee expressed appreciation to the State Duma, the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, particularly to the Vice-Speaker Honorable, Mr. Valeriy Yasev for his excellent leadership and organization of the meeting, and for the hospitality offered to all participants.



Annex I

List of Participants in the Meeting of APA Sub-Committee on Asian Integrated Energy Market

Moscow
15-16 May 2008

Delegations	
Afghanistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hon. Eng. Mohammad Khan (MP, Wolesi Girga) - Hon. Dr. Abdul Qaium (MP, Wolesi Girga) - Hon. Haji Sabir Khan Babakarkhil (MP, Meshrano Girga)
Bahrain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hon. Dr. Salah Ali Abdulrahman (MP, Second Deputy Speaker) - Hon. Ms. Sameera Ebrahim Abdulrasool (MP)
China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hon. Mr. Ma Wenpu (MP, Vice-Chairman, NPC Foreign Affairs Committee, Delegation leader) - Hon. Mr. Wang Wen (Deputy Director General, Foreign Affairs Bureau, NPC) - Mr. Xie Bohua (Counsellor, Dept. of Intl. Orgs. & Conferences, MFA) - Ms. Wang Yixing (Staff, Dept. of Intl. Orgs. & Conferences, MFA, English Translator)
Indonesia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hon. Kiemas Nazaruddin (MP) - Hon. Nasution Ade Daud Iswandi (MP) - Mr. Purba Robert Juheng (Regional Parliamentary Organizations Officer)
Iran	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hon. Dr. Hossein Nejabat (MP) - Hon. Hossein Sheikholeslam (MP)
Iraq	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hon. Husein Mohammad Abdalla (MP) - Hon. Nassar Zgeir Darbi (MP) - Hon. Ali Husein Bello (MP) - Hon. Jaber Halifa Jaber (MP) - Hon. Mohammad Hussein Saleh (MP) - Hon. Abdul Hadi Al-Hasani (MP)
Kuwait	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hon. Allam Al-Kandary (Secretary General) - Hon. Mr. Tawfeeq S. Al-Wehaib (Assistant Secretary General) - Mr. Nasser Abduljhadher (Secretary)

Asian Parliamentary Assembly



Philippines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hon. Jose de Venecia, Jr. (MP) - Hon. Victor Ortega (MP) - Mr. Paul Schaefer (Expert) - Mr. Nestor Nabor (Assistant)
Russia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hon. Valeriy Yasev (MP, Vice-Speaker of State Duma) - Hon. Rudik Iskuzhin (MP, Vice-Chairman of Commission on Control Activity of Council) - Hon. Vasilii Zinoviyev (MP, Vice-Chairman of Committee on Energy of State Duma) - Hon. Vitaliy Malkin (MP, Member of International Affairs Committee of Council) - Hon. Ruslan Kondratov (MP, Member of International Affairs Committee of State Duma) - Hon. Bakhtier Khakimov (Director, Dept. of the Pan-Asia Affairs, MFA) - Hon. Dmitry Lukyantsev (Chief of Section, Dept. of the Pan-Asia Affairs, MFA) - Mr. Guennadiy Golubev (Deputy Chief of the Dept., Zarubezhneft Co.) - Mr. Alexey Falin (Director General, Zarubezhugol Co.) - Mrs. Svetlana Gorshenina (Chief Expert, InterRAO EES Energy Co.) - Mr. Sergey Tatarnikov (Director on Regional Cooperation in South-East Asia, VO Tekhnopromexport Co.) - Mr. Sergey Sosnin (Adviser, Directorate on Development, Siloviye Mashiny (Power Machines) Co.) - Dr. Vladimir Likhachev (Vice-Director, Energy Research Institute) - Mr. Valeriy Pervukhin (Chief, Dept. on World Energy, Institute on Energy Strategy) - Prof. Dr. Yuriy Yershov (Vice-Director, Research and Scientific Institute on International Economic Relations) - Dr. Valeriy Salygin (Academician, Director of the International Institute on the Energy Policy and Diplomacy, MFA) - Mr. Konstantin Popov (Acting Director, Dept. on International Cooperation, "Rosatom" Nuclear Energy State Corp.) - Mr. Roman Samsonov (General Director, Russian Research and Scientific Institute on Gas) - Mr. Vladimir Bashkin (Chief Scientist, Russian Research and Scientific Institute on Gas) - Mr. Oleg Zhilin (Vice-President, Russian Gas Society)
Saudi Arabia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hon. Hezam Al-Otaibi (MP) - Hon. Majed A. Almuneef (MP) - Mr. Saeed Al-Angari (Adviser)



Report of the Meeting

Of

APA Sub-Committee

On

Alleviating Poverty in Asia

**Jakarta, Indonesia
12-13 June 2008**

1. The Sub-Committee on Alleviating Poverty in Asia held its 1st meeting from 12 to 13 June 2008 in Jakarta, Indonesia. Delegations composed of APA delegates and anti-poverty experts from the following 10 Member Parliaments participated in the meeting of the Sub-Committee: Afghanistan, Bahrain, Cyprus, Indonesia, Iran, Kuwait, Lao PDR, Saudi Arabia, Singapore and Turkey. The list of participants is attached as Annex 1.
2. The Honorable, Mr. Abdillah Toha, Chairman of the Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation of Indonesian House of Representatives, was elected as the Chairperson of the Sub-Committee. The Honorable, Dr. Teo Ho Pin, Member of Singapore's Parliament, was elected as the Vice-Chairman of the Sub-Committee.
3. The list of documents before the Sub-Committee included:
 - Resolution on adoption of the Plan of Action on Alleviating Poverty in Asia and its Annex, APA/Res/2007/04 and APA/Res/2007/04/Annex.
 - Resolution adopted by the APA Plenary on the recommendation of the Economic and Sustainable Development Standing Committee, APA/Economic Com/2007/01.
 - Report of the Secretary-General to the meeting of the Sub-Committee on Alleviating Poverty, SG/Rep/2008/03.



4. The Report of the Secretary-General to the Sub-Committee on Alleviating Poverty in Asia contained in document SG/Rep/2008/03 had been forwarded to all APA Member Parliaments on 2 June 2008, and has been available on APA Secretariat's website since then.
5. The Sub-Committee expressed thanks and gratitude to the Indonesian Parliament for hosting the meeting and appreciated the Report of APA Secretary-General, SG/Rep/2008/03, on Alleviating Poverty, to Member Parliaments and the Sub-Committee for its consideration. The Sub-Committee exchanged views on many elements and ideas in the Report of the Secretary-General with a view to pursuing the objectives of the Plan of Action on Alleviating Poverty in Asia. The following is a summary of the viewpoints presented by the Sub-Committee members:
 - a) There is a need to strengthen the oversight function and to support budget for poverty alleviation programs in countries of APA Member Parliaments.
 - b) Concrete social safety net programs are required and should be adapted to the needs of different countries.
 - c) The richer and more developed countries should continue their assistance programs towards poverty alleviation in the least developed countries.
 - d) There is a need to seriously consider economic funds and industrial integration within Asia to provide a united front on economic development, particularly in alleviating poverty.
 - e) Poverty alleviation programs should be community driven supported by the favorable fiscal approach which gives priority to public services.
 - f) There is a need to match education with the real demand of the labor market.
 - g) As poverty is trans-national by nature, international cooperation is required.
 - h) Prevention and avoidance of new poverty should be part of the policies of each country.
 - i) There is a need to define the map and the size of poverty in Asia in order to be able to provide appropriate policies.
 - j) Combating corruption, as one of the major causes of poverty, and good governance should be encouraged through measures such as control of the use of assistance funds by the NGOs.
 - k) Coordination of natural disaster management is needed through creating a joint



emergency reaction force.

- l) There is a need to seriously deal with the continuing conflicts in some parts of Asia such as Afghanistan, Palestine and Iraq in order to create peace and stability, which are the major prerequisites to poverty alleviation.
 - m) Poverty alleviation programs should involve civil societies and international organizations, and should be goal oriented and conducted WITH the poor, rather than FOR the poor to give back self-esteem and dignity to the poor.
 - n) APA should draw on the successful experiences of some Asian countries in tackling poverty problems.
6. In this context, the Sub-Committee recommends the following draft resolution to the First Executive Council meeting of 2008, for referral to the APA Plenary of 2008 for consideration of the Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable Development:



Draft Resolution

on

Alleviating Poverty in Asia

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling APA Resolution, APA/Res/2007/04, by which the text of the Plan of Action for Alleviating Poverty in Asia was adopted and a Sub-Committee was established to consider how best to facilitate the implementation of the provisions of that Plan of Action;

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General on Alleviating Poverty, SG/Rep/2008/03, dated 2 June 2008, submitted to the meeting of the Sub-Committee held in Jakarta on 12-13 June 2008;

Recognizing the significant role of parliaments in strengthening national strategic plans for alleviation of poverty;

Expressing concern about the situation of the poor globally and in Asia;

Expressing determination to help strengthen national efforts to meet UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);

1. *Decide* to mandate the Sub-Committee to continue to work, as appropriate, to strengthen the role of Parliaments in all phases of national poverty alleviation strategic plans, including benefiting from advisory groups as the need arises to provide technical advice to the Sub-Committee on a time-bound implementation of the Plan of Action on Alleviating Poverty.
2. *Decide* to strengthen coordination among international and regional organizations such as ADB, ESCAP, IDB, UNESCAP, and the relevant NGOs active in this field, to provide technical support to the implementation of APA Plan of Action on Alleviating Poverty.



3. *Request* the Sub-Committee to explore ways in which best practices in Asia in poverty alleviation could be exchanged, including identification of focal points in the executive branch of each Member Parliament and defining a networking scheme among them.
4. *Request* the Sub-Committee to expedite and report the possible establishment of a Poverty Alleviation Fund in Asia as reflected in article 16 of APA Resolution on Economic and Sustainable Development, APA/Economic Com/2007/01 dated 20 November 2007.
5. *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 in 2009, which will be held in a volunteer country or in the country of the APA President.



Annex 1

List of Participants in the Meeting of APA Sub-Committee on Alleviating Poverty in Asia

Jakarta, Indonesia
12-13 June 2008

(in alphabetical order)

I. APA Member Parliaments:

1) Afghanistan	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Hon. Mr. Mohammad Daoud Kalakani (MP, Wolesi Jirga)2. Hon. Mr. Gull Badshah Majeedi (MP, Wolesi Jirga)
2) Bahrain	<ol style="list-style-type: none">3. Hon. Mr. Abdulrahman Abdulsalam (MP, Shura Council)4. Hon. Mr. Sayed Abdulla Ala'ali (MP, Council of Representatives)5. Hon. Mr. Sami Mohsen Mohammed Al-Bahiri (MP, Council of Representatives)6. Mr. Hasan Qambar (Staff)7. Mr. Tariq Al-Burshid (Staff)
3) Cyprus	<ol style="list-style-type: none">8. Hon. Dr. Mrs. Eleni Theocharous (MP)
4) Indonesia	<ol style="list-style-type: none">9. Hon. HR. Agung Laksono (Speaker, House of Representatives and Head of Delegation)10. Hon. Mr. Abdillah Toha (Chairman of the Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation, House of Representatives)11. Hon. Mr. Simon Patrice Morin (Vice Chairman of the Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation, House of Representatives)12. Hon. Mr. Sutradara Gintings (Vice Chairman of the Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation, House of Representatives)13. Hon. Mr. Tosari Widjaya (Vice Chairman of the Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation, House of Representatives)14. Hon. Mr. Luthfi Hasan Ishaq (Vice Chairman of the Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation, House of Representatives)15. Hon. Mr. Hakim Sorimuda Pohan (MP)



5) Iran	16. Hon. Dr. Mehdi Sanaie (MP) 17. Hon. Dr. Seyed Shamseddin Hosseini (Deputy Minister of Welfare and Social Security)
6) Kuwait	18. Hon. Mr. Waleed Al-Tabtabae (MP) 19. Mr. Jamal Al-Khamees (Staff)
7) Lao PDR	20. Hon. Ms. Singkham Khongsavanh (MP) 21. Ms. Sisavanh Boupna (Staff)
8) Saudi Arabia	22. Hon. Dr. Hezam Al-Otaibi (MP) 23. Mr. Saad Alangari (Adviser)
9) Singapore	24. Hon. Dr. Teo Ho Pin (MP) 25. Hon. Dr. Ahmad Bin Mohamed Magad (MP) 26. Ms. Sharon Foo Mun Yee (Staff)
10) Turkey	27. Hon. Mr. Abdulkadir Emin Onen (MP, Head of the Turkish APA Group)

II. Guests:

11) Hanns Seidel Foundation (Philippines)	28. Mr. Paul G. Schäfer (Resident Representative)
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* Please report any errors in the above list to the APA Secretariat at:

Email: secretariat@asianparliament.org

Fax: (+98-21) 2272 4498



Report of the Meeting
of the
Sub-Committee on the Friendship Pact of Asia

23-24 June 2008
Manama, Bahrain

1. The Sub-Committee on the Friendship Pact of Asia held its meeting on 23-24 June 2008 in Manama, the Kingdom of Bahrain. APA Delegations from Bahrain, Bangladesh, Islamic Republic of Iran, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Kuwait, State of Palestine, the Russian Federation, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Syrian Arab Republic participated in this meeting. The list of participants is attached as Annex 1.
2. The Honorable, Dr. Salah Ali Abdul Rahman, the Second Deputy to the Speaker of the Council of Representatives of Bahrain, was elected as the Chairperson; the Honorable, Mr. Zuhair Sanduka, member of the Parliament of the State of Palestine was elected as the Vice-Chairperson and the Honorable, Mr. Akhtar Hamid Siddiqui, the Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Bangladesh was elected as the Rapporteur of the Sub-Committee.
3. The list of documents before the Sub-Committee included:
 - APA/Res/2007/06, dated 19 November 2007, Resolution on the Friendship Pact in Asia;
 - APA/Res/2007/06/Annex, dated 19 November 2007, the Text of the Friendship Pact in Asia;
 - SG/Rep/2008/04, dated 3 June 2008, The Report of the Secretary-General on the Friendship Pact in Asia to the Sub-Committee.
4. The Preliminary Report of the Secretary-General to the Sub-Committee on the Friendship Pact in Asia contained in document SG/Rep/2008/04 had been forwarded to all APA Member Parliaments on 3 June 2008 and has been available on the website of the APA Secretariat ever since.



5. The Sub-Committee welcomed the Report of the Secretary-General, SG/Rep/2008/04 on the Friendship Pact in Asia, and expressed appreciation for the manner in which it was submitted to the Sub-Committee for its consideration.
6. The Sub-Committee exchanged views on many elements and ideas in the Report of the Secretary-General with a view to pursuing the objectives of the Friendship Pact of Asia. The Sub-Committee took note of the suggestions for further progress as set forth in the section IV of the Report of the Secretary-General. Most delegations expressed support for the third approach suggested by the Secretary-General at this stage, with the intention to further build on it gradually for engagement of the governments, parliamentary friendship groups, non-governmental organizations, and the members of the civil society in phases.
7. Most delegations expressed support for strengthening efforts for implementation of the Friendship Pact of Asia and stressed the need to further explore ways to draw interests from, and engagement of, the governments to the work of the APA.
8. The Sub-Committee expressed appreciation to the Council of Representatives of the Kingdom of Bahrain, particularly H.E. Mr. Khalifa Bin Ahmed Al-Dahrani, the Speaker of the Council of Representatives of the Kingdom of Bahrain for his excellent leadership and organization of the meeting, and for the hospitality offered to all participants.
9. The Sub-Committee also expressed appreciation to H.E Mr. Ali Bin Saleh Al-Saleh, the Speaker of the Shura Council of the Kingdom of Bahrain.
10. The Sub-Committee recommended the following draft resolution to the first APA Executive Council meeting of 2008, to be forwarded to the APA Plenary for consideration of the Political Committee:



Draft Resolution

on

Pursuing Implementation of the Friendship Pact of Asia

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling the Resolution on the Friendship Pact in Asia, APA/Res/2007/06, dated 19 November 2007 and the Annex thereof;

Welcoming the Report of the Secretary-General on the Friendship Pact in Asia, contained in document SG/Rep/2008/04, dated 23 June 2008, to the Sub-Committee meeting on the Friendship Pact of Asia held in Manama on 23-24 June 2008;

Taking note of the deliberations of the APA Sub-Committee on the Friendship Pact of Asia, expressing support for Paragraph 3 of Section IV of the Report of the Secretary-General which underlines a prominent role for parliaments and entails a gradual approach to progress in implementation of the Friendship Pact of Asia;

Underscoring the enduring elements of peace and friendship in Asia in various arenas such as trade, environment, energy, culture and development;

Encouraging amity and friendly relations among Asian Nations and States based on sovereign equality, territorial integrity, the right of nations to self-determination, and good neighborly relations;

Resolving to promote the spirit of friendship throughout Asia in the interest of all peoples in Asia and beyond;

Inviting the respective governments of the APA Member Parliaments to reinforce the efforts of the APA for promotion of amity and friendship in Asia;

Decide to adopt “The Declaration on Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia,” annexed to this resolution, which substantively corresponds to the “Friendship Pact in Asia” contained in document APA/Res/2007/06/Annex, dated 17 November 2007, with certain adjustments in wording;

Resolve to take appropriate measures for adoption of the “Declaration on Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia” by our national Parliaments in accordance with our respective domestic laws and procedures;



Express determination to promote public awareness about the “Declaration” through the media, hearings from, and briefings by, executive officials, members of civil societies and non-governmental organizations;

Recommend that Member Parliaments take appropriate measures, in accordance with Paragraph 2 of Rule 46 of the APA Rules of Procedure, with due regard to their own domestic laws and practices, to engage their respective Governments in promoting the “Declaration” with a view to consider arranging a Joint APA Governments Meeting, when appropriate, and in support of the parliamentary initiative on the “Declaration on Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia”;

Request the Secretary-General to pursue the process of adoption of the “Declaration” by Member Parliaments, and seek their views on measures they have taken to implement this resolution and to report thereon to the next meeting of the Sub-Committee on the “Declaration on Principles of Friendship and Cooperation in Asia” to be held in a volunteer country or in the country of the President of the APA in 2009.



Report of the Meeting

of the

Sub-Committee on Environmental Issues, Global Warming, and Planting Billions of Trees throughout Asia

**21-22 July 2008
Damascus, Syria**

1. The Sub-Committee on Environmental Issues, Global Warming, and Planting Billions of Trees throughout Asia held its meeting on 21-22 July 2008 in Damascus, the Syrian Arab Republic. APA Delegations from Bahrain, Bangladesh, Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Pakistan, Palestine, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Turkey participated in this meeting. The list of participants is attached as Annex 1.
2. His Excellency Dr. Mahmoud Al-Abrach, Speaker of the Syrian People's Assembly, delivered his kind opening statement at the beginning of the meeting. Honorable Mr. Subhi Al-Hamadi, Member of the Syrian People's Assembly was elected as the Chairperson; Honorable Mr. Mohammad Al-Kouz, Member of the Jordanian House of Representatives was elected as the Vice-Chairperson and Honorable Mr. Akhtar Hamid Siddiqui, Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Bangladesh was elected as the Rapporteur of the Sub-Committee.
3. The list of documents before the Sub-Committee included:
 - APA/Economic Com/2007/01, dated 20 November 2007, Resolution on Economic and Sustainable Development;
 - SG/Rep/2008/05, dated 6 July 2008, The Report of the Secretary-General on Environmental Issues, Global Warming, and Planting Billions of Trees throughout Asia.
4. The Preliminary Report of the Secretary-General to the Sub-Committee on Environmental Issues, Global Warming, and Planting Billions of Trees throughout Asia contained in document SG/Rep/2008/05 had been forwarded to all APA Member Parliaments on 6 July 2008 and has been available on the website of the APA Secretariat ever since.



5. The Sub-Committee welcomed the Report of the Secretary-General, SG/Rep/2008/05, and expressed appreciation for the manner in which it was submitted to the Sub-Committee for its consideration.
6. The Sub-Committee exchanged views on different elements and ideas in the Report of the Secretary-General with a view to pursuing its objectives. The Sub-Committee took note of the suggestions for further steps to be taken as mentioned in the Report of the Secretary-General.
7. Participating delegates further made the following points:
 - a) The hazardous impacts of the U.S. policies and Israeli occupation in West Asia including nuclear activities, dumping chemical wastes and dangerous materials and ammunitions used in the war in Iraq and the War of July 2006 against Lebanon, are the major concern expressed by all of the participating delegates.
 - b) Certain Western governments, particularly the United States, bear the biggest bulk of responsibility for the present catastrophic environmental situation in the world not only by continuous refraining from acceding to the Kyoto Protocol and committing to it but by supporting such anti-environmental actions of Israel who systematically cleanses the Palestinian and Lebanese lands from so many precious olive trees and other plantations which are considered the most valuable assets of the defenseless residents of those lands. Destroying trees by many years of bombing and uprooting has deprived those areas from one of the most effective means of protecting the environment and has also contributed to the global warming in these areas. The same anti-environmental actions have been practiced by foreign forces in Iraq in recent years now and are deplored by all participating delegations.
8. The Sub-Committee expressed appreciation to the Syrian People's Assembly, particularly H.E. Dr. Mahmoud Al-Abrach, the Speaker of the Assembly for his excellent leadership and organization of the meeting and the hospitality offered to all participants.
9. The Sub-Committee recommended the following draft resolution to the first APA Executive Council meeting of 2008, to be forwarded to the APA Plenary for consideration of the Political Committee:



Draft Resolution

on

Environmental Issues, Global Warming, and Planting Billions of Trees throughout Asia

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling the Resolution on the Friendship Pact in Asia, APA/Economic Com/2007/01, dated 20 November 2007 and the Annex thereof;

Welcoming the Report of the Secretary-General on Environmental Issues, Global Warming, and Planting Billions of Trees throughout Asia, contained in document SG/Rep/2008/05, dated 6 July 2008, to the Sub-Committee meeting on Environmental Issues, Global Warming, and Planting Billions of Trees throughout Asia held in Damascus, the Syrian Arab Republic on 21-22 July 2008;

Taking note of the deliberations of the Sub-Committee on Environmental Issues, Global Warming, and Planting Billions of Trees throughout Asia;

Being aware of the undeniable importance of promoting development and economic progress for Asian countries;

Expressing concern about rapid environmental degradation in Asia resulting, *inter alia*, from its unsustainable growth patterns;

Recognizing the need to create a balance between the prerogatives for development of the Asian countries and the protection of their environment;

Also recognizing the responsibility of developed countries and international institutions to special needs of Asian countries in their strive towards the protection of environment;

Acknowledging the importance of cooperation among Asian countries to share experiences and best practices in dealing with the environmental degradation in Asia;

Emphasizing the need for achieving the targets defined by the Kyoto Protocol and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) including MDG 7;

1. *Encourage* Member Parliaments to call upon their respective governments to prepare a sustainable development strategy, a strategy on climate change and a national action



plan to achieve yearly energy savings to be adopted by the parliaments.

2. *Urge* Member Parliaments to work closely with their respective governments to achieve MDGs including MDG 7.
3. *Urge further* Member Parliaments to devote more attention in the budget to environmental issues, to strengthen environmental aspects of all legislations and to scrutinize the activities of their respective governments related to environmental issues, climate change and mass tree-planting program.
4. *Emphasize* the need for the access of all Asian countries to advanced technologies to protect their environment and *recognize* the responsibility of developed countries and international institutions in this regard.
5. *Invite* Member Parliaments to encourage their respective governments to work more closely with United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) on different aspects of planting billions of trees throughout Asia.
6. *Decide* to designate 'Global Warming' as the theme for further discussions in the next session of the Sub-Committee and to continue with discussions on other aspects of the work of the Sub-Committee in its subsequent sessions.
7. *Decide also* to discuss an Asian Plan of Action for environmental issues, global warming and planting billions of trees throughout Asia when the discussions referred to in the operative paragraph 6 are exhausted.
8. *Welcome* the initiative of the Secretary General to communicate with UNEP on planting billions of trees throughout Asia and *Request* the Secretary General to report to the next session of the Sub-Committee the results of his communication with UNEP.
9. *Request further* the Secretary General to seek the views of Member Parliaments on the implementation of the present resolution and report thereon to the next session of the Sub-Committee to be held in the Republic of Korea in 2009 as proposed by the Korean Parliament.
10. *Encourage* the North's developed countries to financially help the South's developing nations in their efforts for an environmentally sustainable development.
11. *Emphasize* the need to dispose of the wastewater generated by the factories, power plants and all industrial users in an environmentally safe way.
12. *Strongly recommend* to use the unutilized lands for tree plantation purposes.



13. *Decide* to promote environmental education and public awareness in our countries.
14. *Commit* ourselves to do all in our capacities with respect to efficient use of water resources and observing technical standards including environmental economics.
15. *Stress* the necessity of engaging other stake-holders such as NGOs and the Civil Society in the campaign for protection of environment in our countries.
16. *Request* APA Secretariat to collect data from the Member Countries concerning environmental issues such as higher temperatures, melting of ices, planting trees, food security, environmental degradation, water shortage and pollution, bio-diversity, and environmental technical know-how in order to prepare a database for the reference and use by all APA member countries.
17. *Invite* the resourceful members of APA to provide funds to other less resourceful APA members for implementation of the goals and policies recommended in this resolution.
18. *Request* UNEP to provide technical assistance to APA member countries who are in need of such assistance to enforce environmental policies.
19. *Propose* the adoption of slogans such as “planting one new tree for each new born child.”
20. *Underlines* the necessity of transferring environmentally sound (green) technologies to developing countries at an affordable cost.
21. *Encourage* the use of Compact Natural Gas (CNG) vehicles and alternative sources of energy such as solar, wind, etc.



Annex 1

List of Participants

in the First Meeting of the

Sub-Committee on Environmental Issues, Global Warming, and Planting Billions of Trees throughout Asia

**21-22 July 2008
Damascus, Syria**

(In alphabetical order)

Parliaments	Delegates	Companions
1. Bahrain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hon. Fuad Al-Hajee (Member of Shura Council) - Hon. Khalil Al-Marzooq (Chairman of Legislation & Legal Committee, Council of Representatives) 	- Mr. Yousif Marhoon (Senior Specialist Media & Public Relations, Shura Council)
2. Bangladesh	- Hon. Akhtar Hamid Siddiqui (Deputy Speaker of Parliament and Rapporteur of the meeting)	- Mr. Md. Humayun Kabir (Private Secretary to Hon. Deputy Speaker)
3. Iran	- Hon. Hossein Nejabat (Member of Islamic Consultative Assembly)	- Mr. Ali Reza Naraghipur (Attache, Economic Section, Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Damascus)
4. Jordan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hon. Mohammad Al-Kouz (Member of the House of Representatives, and Head of Delegation, and Vice-Chairman of the meeting) - Hon. Mohammad Abualhyeh (Member of the House of Representatives) 	- Mr. Haitham Al-Rahamneh (Public Relations Officer)
5. Kuwait	- Hon. Ali Salem Al-Deqbasi (Member of Kuwait National Assembly)	- Mr. Jamal Abdallah Al-Khamees (Director of Foreign Relations, Kuwait National Assembly)



6. Lebanon	- Hon. Dr. Ali Mokdad (Member of National Assembly)	
7. Pakistan	- Hon. Dr. Safdar Ali Abbasi (Member of Senate) - Hon. Mohammad Abbas Kumaili (Member of Senate)	- Mr. Muhammad Riaz (Superintendent, Senate)
8. Palestine	- Hon. Taysir Qubaa (Deputy Speaker of Palestine National Council and Head of the Delegation) - Hon. Zuhair Sanduka (Member of Palestine National Council)	
9. Russia	- Hon. Valery Yazev (Vice-Chairman of State Duma)	- Ms. Yulia Guskova (Adviser, Secretary of Russian Delegation to APA) - Mrs. Valentina Tribunskaya (Interpreter)
10. Saudi Arabia	- Hon. Mohammed Elsharif (Member of Shura Council)	- Mr. Mohammed Al-Saeed (Adviser)
11. Syria	- Hon. Subhi Al-Hamadi (Member of People's Assembly and Head of Delegation and Chairman of the meeting) - Hon. Muhammed Osama Burhan (Member of People's Assembly) - Hon. Dr. Fatima Fouiti (Member of People's Assembly)	
12. Turkey	- Hon. Abdulkadir Emin Onen (Member of Parliament and Chairman of Turkish APA Group)	- Mr. Ali Bozcaliskan (First Secretary, Turkish Embassy, Damascus)
APA Secretariat	- Hon. Dr. Ali Khorram (Adviser to APA Secretary-General) - Hon. Mohsen Azimi Etemadi (Adviser to APA Secretary General)	

* Please report any error in the above list to the APA Secretariat at:

Email: secretariat@asianparliament.org

Fax: (+98-21) 2272 4498



**Report of the Sub-Committee on
Protecting and Respecting Cultural Diversity
21-22 August 2008, Seoul**

1. The Sub-Committee on Protecting and Respecting Cultural Diversity held its meeting on 21-22 October 2008 in Seoul, Republic of Korea. Delegates from Afghanistan, Bahrain, Cyprus, Korea (Republic of), Kuwait, Jordan, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Syria participated in the meeting.
2. The list of documents before the Sub-Committee included:
 - 2.1. APA Resolution on Cultural Diversity, APA/Res/2007/02
 - 2.2. APA Plan of Action on Protecting and Respecting Cultural Diversity, APA/Res/2007/02/Annex
 - 2.3. Report of the Secretary-General to the Sub-Committee, SG/2008/07, dated 5 August 2008.
3. The meeting began by a welcoming address by Honorable KO Heung Kil, the Chairman Designate of the National Assembly's Standing Committee on Culture, Sport, Tourism, Broadcasting and Communications. Assistant Secretary-General, Ambassador Amir H. Zamaninia made an opening Statement. H. E. Mr. Kim, Jang-Sul, the Vice-Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism of the Republic of Korea made a congratulatory remark and expressed support for the work of the APA, particularly those about promoting cultural diversity.
4. Honorable Sunggon Kim, member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea was elected as the Chairperson of the Sub-Committee. Honorable Waleed Al-Tabatabaei, member of National Assembly of Kuwait was elected as the Vice-Chairperson. Honorable Eleni Theocharous-Kariolou, Member of the House of Representatives of Cyprus was elected as the Rapporteur of the Sub-Committee.
5. The elected Chairman, Honorable Sunggon Kim made an opening statement. Assistant Secretary-General Amir Zamaninia made an oral presentation of the report of the Secretary-General. On behalf of the host



country, Dr. Choung Kap Young, Senior Researcher at Korean Culture and Tourism Institute made a statement and focused on ideas presented in the Secretary-General and shed further lights and details on various sections of the Report. The Chairman invited statement from delegates and general debate then ensued.

6. The delegates welcomed the Report of the Secretary-General and underlined the importance and relevance of various sections of the Report. Enhancing cooperation with international organizations dealing with the question of culture, combating smuggling of cultural items and working together to retrieve smuggled cultural items no matter how long they have been in the wrong hands, facilitating consular services within Asia, promoting respect for sub-cultures including the cultures of minorities and immigrants, ... were among issues in the report of the Secretary-General that received amplifications by delegates in the general debate.
7. Delegates proposed that due to the importance of promotion of respect for cultural diversity, the outcome resolution of the Sub-Committee, when finally adopted, be forwarded to the United Nations Secretary-General.
8. Many delegates stressed the importance of a balanced and multi-cultural education in promoting protection and respect for cultural diversity. The role of media and broadcasting in public education about cultural diversity was underlined by many delegates. In this respect it was proposed by some delegates to promote networking among professional media, broadcasting and movie industries in Asia.
9. The Sub-Committee recommends the following draft resolution to the First meeting of the Executive Council in 2008, to be forwarded to the APA Plenary for consideration and adoption.



Draft Resolution

on

Protecting and Respecting Cultural Diversity in Asia

We, the Members of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Recalling APA Resolution, APA/Res/2007/02, by which the text of the Plan of Action on Protecting and Respecting Cultural Diversity in Asia was adopted and a Sub-Committee was established to consider how best to facilitate the implementation of the provisions of that Plan of Action;

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General on Protecting and Respecting Cultural Diversity, SG/Rep/2008/03, dated 2 August, 2008, submitted to the meeting of the Sub-Committee held in Seoul on 21-22 August, 2008;

Recognizing the significant role of parliaments both in strengthening national cultural policies and in harmonizing Asian approach for promoting cultural diversity;

Expressing concern about negative impact of globalization on cultural identities of Asian societies;

Stressing the importance of a balanced and multicultural education, particularly from early childhood, on cultural and religious diversity;

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



1. Decide to promote respect for cultural diversity by exchanging relevant information, best practices and joint programs in Asia, including through identification of focal points in the executive branch of each Member Parliament and defining a networking scheme among them.
2. Express determination to rely on the spiritual heritage of Asian civilizations to further contribute to the global vision to counter the negative impact of globalization on cultural diversity.
3. Underline the importance of strengthening coordination between APA and international and regional organizations such as UNESCO, ISESCO and relevant NGOs active in this field, to both exchange experience and provide technical support for the implementation of APA Plan of Action on Protecting and Respecting Cultural Diversity.
4. Decide to hold two regional workshops in 2009 in... and ... to study the most appropriate relationship between economic development and culture, and to accord priority to this subject in the 2009 meeting of the Sub-Committee.
5. Decide to promote interfaith dialogue among Asian religions including through greater participation of Member Parliaments in the meetings of “Asian Conference of Religions for Peace.”
6. Express concern about smuggling of cultural items, particularly those that are in areas under foreign occupation.
7. Resolve to develop and promote adoption of a common legislation among Member Parliaments to combat smuggling of cultural items in Asia, and in this respect, request the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member Parliaments and prepare a draft common legislation to combat smuggling of cultural items in Asia and submit a report



thereon to the next meeting of the Sub-Committee.

8. Express determination to encourage relevant government agencies to facilitate consular services for citizens of Asian countries to allow for greater people-to-people interaction.
9. Decide to establish 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, and in this context, request the Secretary-General to report on the relevant procedure and criteria for establishment of such award to the next meeting of the Sub-Committee.
10. Welcome a report to be prepared by the Secretary-General on usefulness and efficiency of establishing an Asian Cultural Foundation (ACF) as a non-governmental organization to strengthen coordination of cultural activities at the continent level, and request the Secretary-General to take into account the Asian and international organizations that already exist and deal with the issue of cultural diversity.
11. 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 in 2009, which will be held in a volunteer country or in the country of the APA President.



10. The sub-Committee expressed appreciation to the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea, particularly to Honorable Sunggon Kim, member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea for his leadership and stewardship of the deliberation in the Sub-Committee and for the hospitality offered to all participants.



Annex I

List of Participants

**in the First Meeting of the
Sub-Committee on Protecting and Respecting Cultural Diversity in Asia**

21-22 August, 2008

Seoul, Republic of Korea

(in alphabetical order)

Parliaments	Delegates	Companions
1. Afghanistan	- Hon. Ms. Shukria Paikan Ahmadi (Member of Lower House) - Hon. Niamatullah Miakhail (Member of Lower House)	
2. Bahrain	- Hon. Dalal Alzayed (Member of Shura Council) - Hon. Sami Qambar (Member of Council of Representatives)	- Ms. Fatema Alzayed (Media Specialist)
3. Cyprus	- Hon. Mrs. Eleni Theocharous- Kariolou (Member of House of Representatives)	
4. Iran	- Hon. Seyedreza Akrami (Member of the Islamic Consultative Assembly)	



5. Jordan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hon. Hashem Shboul (Member of House of Representatives) - Hon. Kaled Al Bakkar (Member of House of Representatives) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Theyab Al-Daihane (Administrator)
6. Korea (Republic)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hon. HWANG Jin Ha (Member of National Assembly) - Hon. KIM Choon Jin (Member of National Assembly) - Hon. JUNG Jang Seon (Member of National Assembly) - Hon. LEE Ke Jin (Member of National Assembly) - Hon. KIM Sung Gon (Member of National Assembly) - Hon. KO Heung Kil (Member of National Assembly) - Hon. LEE Kyeong Jae (Member of National Assembly) - Hon. PARK Sang Don (Member of National Assembly) - Hon. SHIN Sang Jin (Member of National Assembly) - Hon. SONG Young Gil (Member of National Assembly) - Hon. KIM Eul Dong (Member of National Assembly) - Hon. SON Beom Gyu (Member of National Assembly) - Hon. KIM Sung Soon (Member of National Assembly) - Hon. PARK Sun Sook (Member of National Assembly) - Hon. SHIN Nakyun (Member of National Assembly) - Hon. JEONG Ha Kyun (Member of National Assembly) - Hon. PARK Jin (Member of National Assembly) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. CHOUNG Kap Young (Senior Researcher of Korean Culture and Tourism Institute)



7. Kuwait	- Hon. Waleed Al-Tabtabae (Member of National Assembly)	- Mr. Hazem Hawamdeh (Inter-Parliamentary Relation Development Director)
8. Syria	- Hon. Serri Haddad (Member of People's Assembly) - Hon. Samir Hassoun (Member of People's Assembly)	
APA Secretariat	- H.E. Ambassador Amir Hossein Zamaninia (APA Assistant Secretary General)	
Cambodia (Observer)	- Mr. CHEAM Lamatin (Minister- Counsellor of Royal Embassy of Cambodia in Seoul)	

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Email: secretariat@asianparliament.org
Fax: (+98-21) 2272 4498